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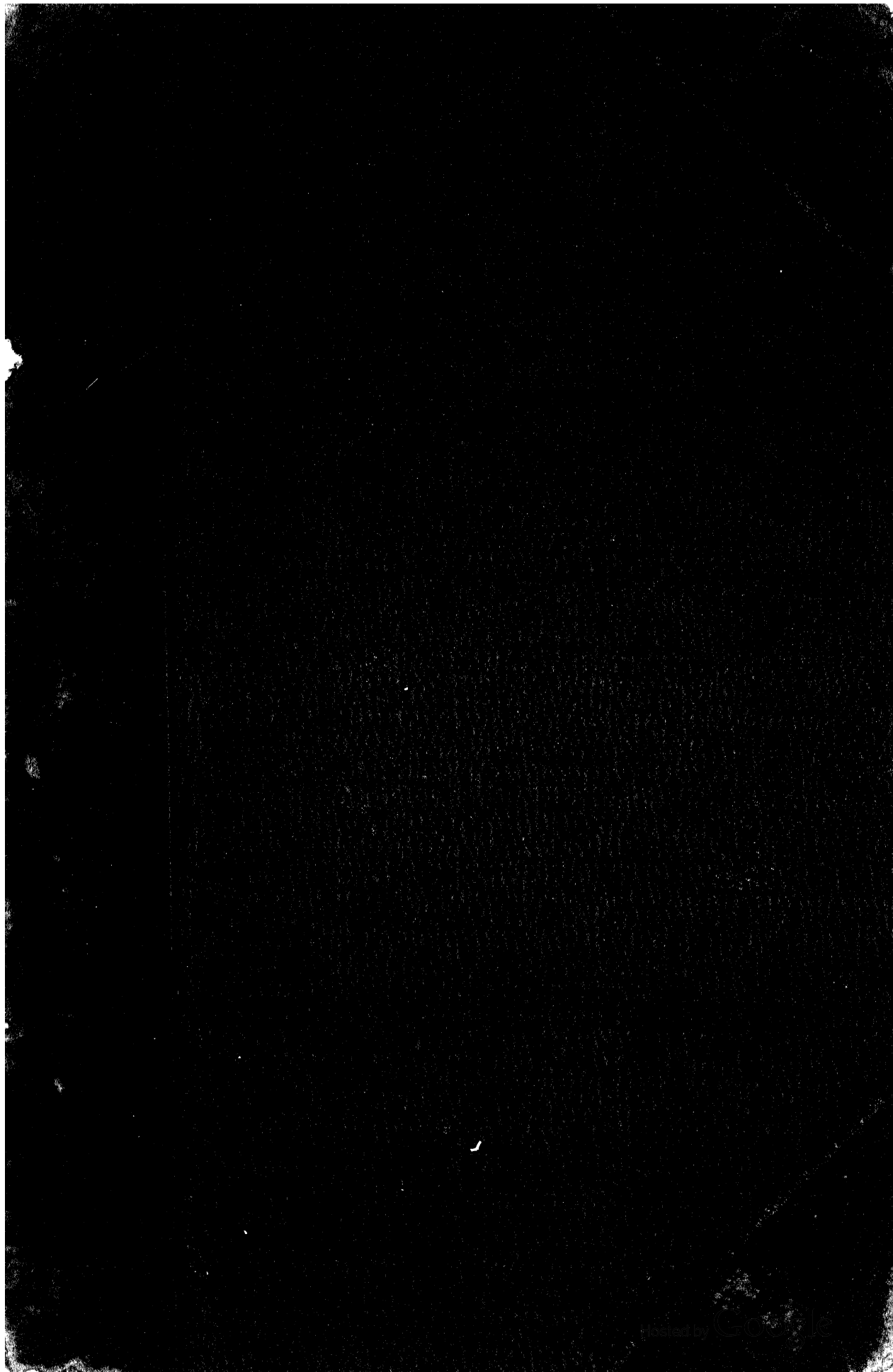
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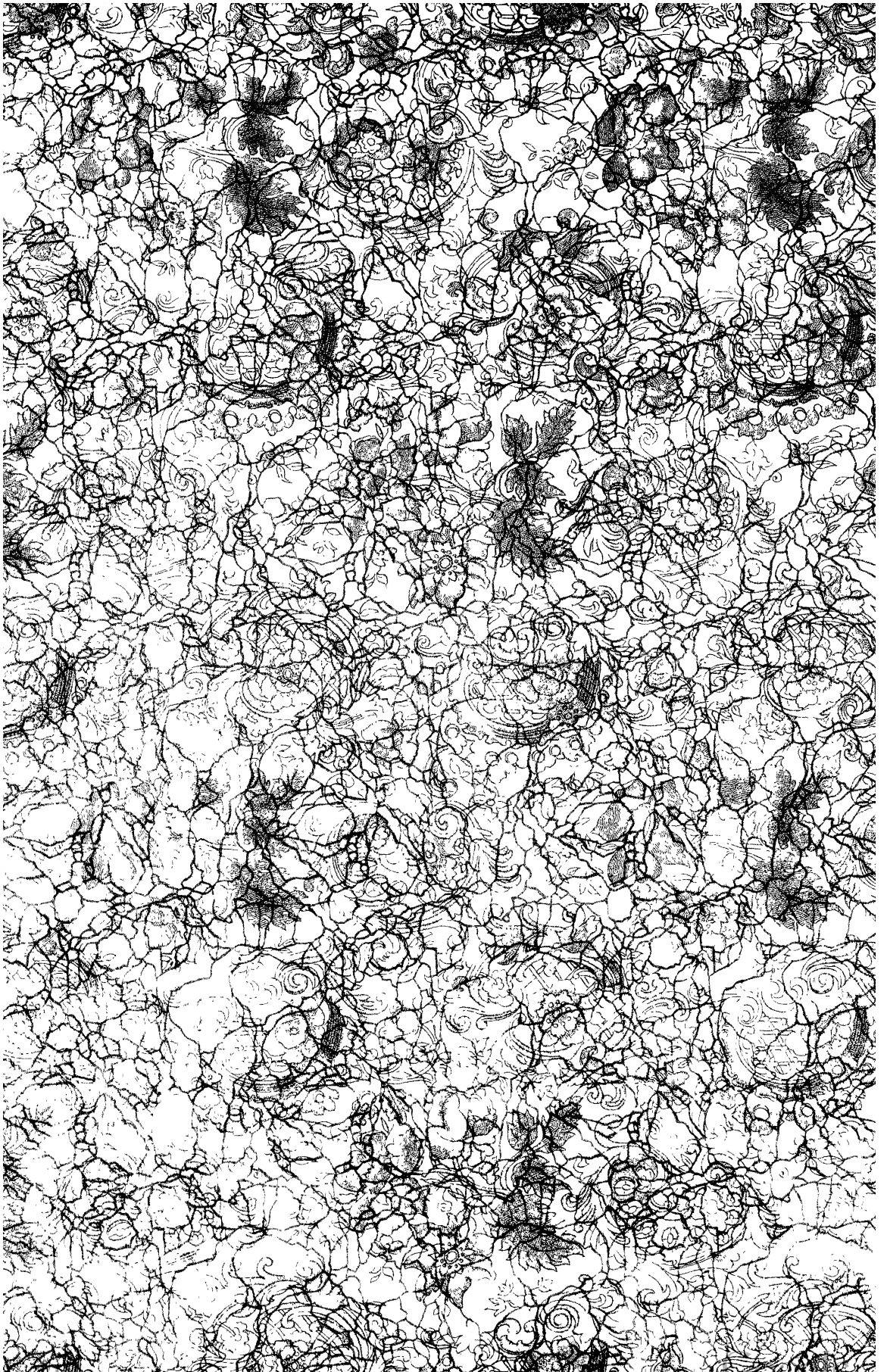


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HISTORY  
OF  
GRAND RAPIDS  
AND ITS INDUSTRIES

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BY DWIGHT GOSS

VOL. II.

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# BIOGRAPHIES.

Adams, Edgar J. ....	771	Dalton, John .....	794
Adsit, Allen C. ....	756	Danhof, James J. ....	786
Allen, Nathan P. ....	790	Danhof, Peter J. ....	786
Averill, Hiram N. ....	792	Dapper, Emil A. ....	784
Ayer, Frank Mervill .....	778	Denison, Arthur Carter .....	784
Barker, Sylvester W. ....	796	Doran, Peter .....	774
Barnaby, Horace T., Jr. ....	793	Doyle, Emanuel J. ....	790
Berkey, Charles H. ....	1068	Drew, Walter W. ....	779
Berkey, Wm. A. ....	1064	Drury, Horton H. ....	786
Bissell, Harvey .....	1078	Dunham, Mayor L. ....	766
Blair, Charles B. ....	779	Eaglesfield, Elizabeth .....	797
Blake, Frank I. ....	790	Earle, J. Edward .....	778
Blair, James .....	739	Earl, Nathaniel A. ....	731
Boltwood, Charles W. ....	792	Eastman, Wm. H. ....	790
Boltwood, George Shepard ....	780	Eggleston, S. Ebenezer .....	723
Boltwood, Lucius .....	762	Ewing, Alvin E. ....	764
Bradfield, Thomas P. ....	791	Fallass, Henry Brown .....	792
Briggs, George G. ....	704	Felker, Henry J. ....	733
Brown, Alvah W. ....	1094	Ferguson, Raymond M. ....	764
Brown, George C. ....	789	Fitch, Charles L. ....	776
Brown, Norris J. ....	782	Fitzgerald, Gerald .....	776
Brown, William B. ....	783	Fitzgerald, John C. ....	761
Buchanan, Claude R. ....	791	Fuller, Wm. D. ....	772
Bullen, Ernest L. ....	786	Garratt, Thos. F. ....	1072
Bundy, McGeorge .....	792	Geib, Fred P. ....	788
Butterfield, Roger Williams ...	759	Gleason, Clark H. ....	794
Calkins, Charles P. ....	725	Godwin, G. Chase .....	737
Campbell, Colin P. ....	781	Goss, Dwight .....	772
Campbell, James H. ....	764	Granger, Orley C. ....	797
Carpenter, Frank L. ....	794	Granger, Sylvester .....	730
Carmody, Martin Henry .....	786	Gray, George .....	740
Carroll, Lawrence E. ....	784	Grove, Wm. E. ....	789
Carroll, Thomas F. ....	776	Haggerty, Wm. H. ....	741
Champlin, John W. ....	734	Hatch, Reuben, Jr. ....	762
Champlin, Stephen G. ....	734	Heald, Henry T. ....	780
Chandler, Charles .....	797	Hess, Frank A. ....	772
Church, Thomas B. ....	725	Hext, Charles F. ....	792
Clapperton, George .....	784	Hindman, Ambrose C. ....	773
Cleland, Rolland J. ....	766	Hine, Frank W. ....	770
Creswell, Harry L. ....	780	Hoffius, Cornelius .....	769
Cole, Ralph .....	730	Holcomb, John W. ....	796
Comstock, Charles Carter ....	1056	Hollway, George Richard .....	788
Comstock, Everett D. ....	764	Holmes, Clyde J. ....	765
Connell, Wm. A. ....	784	Holmes, Frank G. ....	770
Corwin, Benn M. ....	788	Holmes, Glenn W. ....	768
Covode, John A. ....	1050	Holmes, John T. ....	724
Cox, Charles H. ....	1072	Hopson, Wm. C. ....	1088
Crane, Albert .....	763	Houseman, Maurice M. ....	794

BIOGRAPHIES

Hughes, David Darwin .....	726	Putman, Enos .....	944
Hunt, Alfred H. ....	791	Rathbone, Alfred D. ....	728
Hyde, Wesley W. ....	786	Renihan, Joseph .....	794
Jewell, Harry D. ....	770	Richter, Rt. Rev. Henry Jos...	1245
Johnson, Simon M. ....	729	Rodgers, Frank A. ....	788
Johnston, Andrew W. ....	792	Rodgers, Harry E. ....	788
Jordan, Henry S. ....	1071	Rogers, James A. ....	733
Judkins, J. Byron .....	795	Rood, Arthur R. ....	737
Keeney, Willard F. ....	772	Ryan, Will E. ....	782
Kingsley, Willard Arno .....	775	Sargeant, E. E. ....	730
Kirwin, Joseph .....	789	Smedley, Charles O. ....	793
Kleinhans, Jacob .....	790	Smiley, Mitchell J. ....	798
Knappen, Loyal Edwin .....	766	Smith, Wm. Alden .....	801
Knappen, Stuart E. ....	764	Stace, Francis A. ....	791
Kuiper, Gelmer .....	773	Steketee, Jacob .....	762
Landman, Wm. J. ....	789	Stewart, Earl R. ....	771
Lee, Walter C. ....	797	Stickley, Albert .....	1070
Leffingwell, Christopher W. ....	741	Stow, Lathrop C. ....	1066
Lombard, James A. ....	792	Stuart, William James .....	768
Lowell, Arthur .....	794	Studley, Elbridge G. ....	1086
Loucks, John C. ....	792	Swarthout, Elvin .....	792
Luce, Frederick R. ....	1062	Taggart, Ganson .....	755
Luce, R. C. ....	1059	Taggart, Moses .....	753
Maher, Edgar A. ....	782	Tatem, John H. ....	792
Malcolm, James D. ....	766	Tateum, Wm. Aldrich .....	775
Mapes, Carl E. ....	772	Taylor, William Wisner .....	786
McAllister, James T. ....	785	Temple, Charles Edward .....	784
McBride, James E. ....	792	Temple, Fred C. ....	780
McCormick, Henry F. ....	789	Thompson, George W. ....	755
McDonald, John S. ....	774	Thornton, Howard A. ....	764
McKee, James H. ....	794	Tower, Prudence .....	1102
McKnight, Wm. F. ....	775	Turner, Charles G. ....	789
Merrick, Benjamin P. ....	793	Travis, Philip H. ....	792
Miller, James .....	729	Van Asmus, Henry D. C. ....	813
Minor, Don E. ....	784	Verkerke, John Adrian .....	775
More, John E. ....	762	Verdier, Leonard D. ....	794
Morman, William .....	1100	Voorheis, Peter .....	733
Moulton, Luther V. ....	789	Walch, Hadley H. ....	790
Nachtegall, Alfred .....	1067	Walch, Henry F. ....	768
Newnham, Richard L. ....	766	Walker, Myron H. ....	756
Norblad, Albin W. ....	784	Wallace, Henry M. ....	788
Norris, Mark .....	782	Ward, Charles E. ....	765
Norris, Lyman D. ....	800	Ward, Leonard A. ....	738
O'Brien, Thomas J. ....	780	Watkins, Erwin C. ....	793
Orton, Jessie F. ....	776	Watkins, Roy M. ....	768
Osgood, C. ....	730	Watt, Charles A. ....	788
Owen, Charles M. ....	762	Wesselius, Sybrant .....	786
Park, Leonorr L. ....	771	White, George H. ....	739
Patterson, Lucius .....	730	Wicks, Kirk E. ....	781
Patton, John, Jr. ....	771	Widdicomb, Wm. ....	1041
Perkins, Cyrus E. ....	773	Wilson, Charles Moseman .....	753
Perkins, Willis Barnes .....	764	Wilson, Hugh E. ....	782
Pettibone, Knowlton S. ....	1107	Winegar, William .....	1080
Phillips, Pleasant I. ....	766	Withey, Solomon L. ....	723
Potter, Charles J. ....	776	Wolecott, Alfred .....	796
Powers, Mark M. ....	794	Wolecott, Laurens W. ....	754
Powers, John W. ....	789	Wolf, Gustave Adolph .....	775
Preston, Jacob Tome .....	782	Wylie, James Robert .....	768
Pulcher, Rev. James Claude....	1253		

*Memorial Robt. W. 1905 May 36*

# 

Berkey, Charles H. ....	1068	Morman, William .....	1100
Berkey, Wm. A. ....	1064	Norris, Lyman D. ....	800
Bissell, Harvey .....	1078	Norris, Mark .....	782
Briggs, Geo. G. ....	704	O'Brien, Thomas J. ....	780
Butterfield, Roger Wm. ....	760	Perkins, Willis Barnes .....	764
Carroll, Thomas F. ....	776	Pettibone, Knowlton S. ....	1106
Champlin, John W. ....	734	Putman, Enos .....	944
Chandler, Charles .....	797	Richter, Rt. Rev. Henry Joseph.	1246
Comstock, Charles Carter .....	1056	Smiley, Mitchell, J. ....	798
Covode, John A. ....	1050	Smith, Wm. Alden .....	802
Denison, Arthur Carter .....	784	Stickley, Albert .....	1070
Doran, Peter .....	774	Studley, Elbridge G. ....	1086
Goss, Dwight .....	772	Stuart, Wm. James .....	768
Hatch, Reuben, Jr. ....	762	Tatem, John H. ....	792
Hopson, Wm. C. ....	1088	Tower, Prudence .....	1102
Houseman, Maurice M. ....	794	Van Asmus, Henry D. C. ....	814
Hyde, Wesley W. ....	786	Walker, Myron H. ....	756
Jewell, Harry D. ....	770	Widdicomb, Wm. ....	1042
Kleinhans, Jacob .....	790	Wilson, Charles Moseman ....	752
Kingsley, Willard Arno .....	778	Winegar, William .....	1080
Knappen, Loyal Edwin .....	766	Withey, Solomon L. ....	Frontispiece
Luce, Ransom C. ....	1058	Wolecott, Alfred .....	796
Luce, Frederick R. ....	1062	Wolecott, Laurens W. ....	754



## CHAPTER XXIV.

### PUBLIC LIGHTING.

The Grand Rapids Gas Light Company was incorporated in 1857 under the general law of the State, with the following board of officers: President, Francis B. Gilbert; Secretary and Treasurer, Henry Martin, Directors, Noyes L. Avery, George Kendall and Charles C. Rood; Superintendent, Thomas Smith. The office of Secretary and Treasurer was held after 1859 by Thomas D. Gilbert for more than thirty years. Grand Rapids is lighted both by gas and electricity. Ground was broken for the gas works August 12, 1857, on the corner of Ottawa and Ferry streets; the retort house and purifying rooms were completed November 14, 1857, on which date gaslight was furnished to Grand Rapids for the first time.

From the records of the company it appears that George Lovette, at the corner of Canal and Pearl streets, was its first customer. On the evening of November 14, 1857, a number of stores on Monroe street, were lighted with gas, and that of John Kendall & Co., in the Taylor & Barns block on Canal street was among the first illuminated in the show windows. P. J. G. Hodenpyl and John Terhune, Jr., on Monroe street, had their names arranged in small gas jets across their store fronts, which attracted the admiration of the multitude. The city at once availed itself of the new facility for lighting, and about twenty street lamps were erected; the first lamp-post used being presented to the city by Francis B. Gilbert, President of the company, and placed on the corner of Canal and Pearl streets. The first street service was by main pipes laid from the works on Ferry, through Market, Monroe and Canal streets. During the first year the company laid about four miles of mains, and furnished gas to about one hundred consumers. The original gas works were shut down and abandoned for the new July 21, 1886, having been in continuous operation for 28 years, 8 months and 7 days; the closing entry in the old books by Superintendent Thomas Smith being: "Good bye, Old Faithful Friend; you have cheered and lighted up the path-

way of many a weary pilgrim through the years of our existence. Well done, good and faithful servant." The new works were located on the corner of Oakland and Wealthy avenue, occupying nearly six acres of land. The improvements were commenced in September, 1884, and completed in October of the following year, giving increased facilities for furnishing light. The old site was sold to Leonard & Sons, and the G. R. & I. R. R. Company.

The West Side was first served with gas in March, 1869, by pipes laid across Pearl street bridge. The progress made in the use of gas by the citizens may be estimated by the growth of these works from one bench of three retorts in 1857, with tanks for the storage of about 25,000 cubic feet, and giving employment to but few men, four miles of main pipe and less than one hundred consumers, to a plant with a retort house of one hundred and eighty retorts, with a productive capacity equal to two million feet per day of twenty-four hours. The power being supplied by one hundred and eighty horse power engines, the steam from the boilers, conducted to every portion of the works, keeps an even and healthy temperature throughout. The immense coal sheds have a capacity of holding about six thousand tons of coal, most of which is from the rich mines of the Youghiogeny Valley near Pittsburgh, Pa., and in the coke sheds may be stored eighteen thousand bushels of coke. From the small beginning of nearly fifty years ago there are now one hundred and fifty miles of street mains, with about twenty thousand consumers. The works throughout have been built with a view to the increase of the city, and an increased demand for gas. Giving employment to some four hundred persons, it can hold its own with any similar industry in the country. Officers (1906)—Irvin Butterworth, President and General Manager; Emerson McMillin, Vice-President; Glenn R. Chamberlain, Secretary; Mary E. Kearney, Treasurer; Directors, Lester J. Rindge, J. Boyd Pantlind, Henry Idema, Henry Sullivan, Wm. H. Anderson, J. M. Barnett, Thomas J. O'Brien, Emerson McMillin, Irvin Butterworth. The offices of this Company are on the southwest corner of Ottawa and Pearl streets.

The use of gas for heating as well as lighting has largely increased in recent years, and reductions in its cost have resulted in a steadily increased demand. The company reorganized July

3, 1889, with capital stock increased to \$1,000,000, and included in its objects the generation of electricity as well as gas for lighting and heating, and for motive power. It was again reorganized in 1895.

### **Electric Lights and Power.**

The Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company, the first of its kind in this city, was organized March 22, 1880, with a capital stock of \$100,000, the incorporators being Wm. T. Powers, Wm. H. Powers, A. B. Watson, James Blair, Henry Spring, John L. Shaw, Thos. H. Peck, and Sluman S. Bailey. The company purchased its first dynamo (a sixteen-light Brush) and the necessary lamps and line wire, and commenced operations in July, 1880, placing the dynamo in the Wolverine Chair Company's factory at the corner of Pearl and Front streets, and renting water power to propel it. The lights were first exhibited July 24, 1880, in Sweet's Hotel, the clothing store of E. S. Pierce, Spring & Company's Dry Goods Store, A. Preusser's Jewelry Store, Mills & Lacey's Drug Store, Star Clothing House, and Powers' Opera House. The business, increasing steadily from the start, and soon required more apparatus and power. In September of the same year the plant was removed to the saw mill building at the lower end of the West Side canal, and another and larger dynamo added. In the summer of 1881 land and water power were purchased and permanent buildings erected adjoining the leased property. The company put in large water wheels, and duplicated them with steam power, to provide for constant running in case of the failure of water power from any cause. In August, 1881, the city contracted with the company to furnish twelve street lights on Monroe and Canal streets. These were placed on iron posts at the street corners, and soon gave proof of their effectiveness for street lighting. From time to time the city increased the number of these lights.

In 1882 H. D. Wallen, Jr., started an electric plant at the Michigan Iron Works, and organized a stock company, Michigan Iron Works Electric Light and Power Company, which operated in competition with the Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company for about two years, after which the machinery and appliances were purchased by the latter Company, and a portion of them utilized in its plant.



The Grand Rapids Edison Light and Fuel Gas Company was organized December 30, 1886, with an authorized capital of \$200,000, and a lot on the corner of Fulton and Calder streets, 100x170 feet, purchased for the erection of their central station. Work on the streets had but just begun when a temporary injunction was issued from the United States Court at the instance of the Company already occupying the field, and claiming exclusive right by virtue of an ordinance of the City Council prior to that under which the Edison Company were acting. The case was finally decided January 2, 1888, in favor of the Edison Company, and its work was resumed.

On February 17th, 1891, the name of the Grand Rapids Edison Light and Fuel Gas Company was changed to the Edison Light Company of Grand Rapids. During the year 1901 it required additional estate at the corner of East Fulton street and Ellsworth avenue where its storage plant is situated, and in October of the same year it absorbed the Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company, the capital of the Edison Company having been increased to \$350,000. On April 28th, 1902, it was reorganized under the laws of New Jersey with a capital of one million dollars common stock and two hundred thousand dollars preferred stock. Its name was changed to the "Grand Rapids Edison Company." In August, 1902, it acquired the properties of three other corporations: The Lowell Water and Light Company, The West Michigan Electric Co., and the Peninsular Light, Power and Heat Co.

The Grand Rapids Edison Company now has issued \$602,500 of common stock, and \$198,750 of preferred stock with a bonded indebtedness of \$968,000. It has three water power plants, two steam plants, and one storage battery plant. It has about seventy-five employes. It furnishes electricity for about 65,000 incandescent lights and 1,600 arc lights. It furnishes current for about 3,400 horse power in small motors, and nearly all the elevators used in the City of Grand Rapids. It has about 2,500 lighting and power customers, and also operates the water works system in the village of Lowell and supplies all the water there used for domestic purposes and fire protection. Its offices are at 118-20 North Ottawa street and the following are the officers and directors of the Company: President, Daniel McCool; Vice-President, McGeorge Bundy; Secretary and Treasurer, Thos. F.

Bechtel; General Superintendent, A. F. Walker; Directors, Daniel McCool, Clay H. Hollister, McGeorge Bundy, A. F. Walker, Thos. F. Bechtel, G. Becker, Harvey J. Hollister, H. N. Higinbotham, Geo. C. Peirce, K. K. McLaren, E. R. Coffin.

On December 22nd, 1899, the city acquired control of its own public lighting which had before that time been done by contract with private enterprise. The municipal lighting plant was started April 1st, 1900. It now (1906) furnishes electricity for forty tower lights and there are seven hundred and ninety-six lights on the circuit. The tower lights have been in use for many years and few question their utility and merit. Grand Rapids is a well lighted city. The following from the annual report of 1905, gives an idea of the municipal lighting plant. Up to April 15th, 1905, the plant had cost for construction \$205,886.89. It has a bonded indebtedness of \$125,000. The preceding year the cost was as follows:

Construction and extension .....	\$ 3,000 00
Station .....	23,643 33
Office .....	388 83
Distribution .....	3,435 17
	<hr/>
Total maintenance and operation.....	\$27,467 33
	<hr/>
Total disbursements .....	\$30,467 33

## CHAPTER XXV.

### MILITARY AFFAIRS AFTER THE FIRST SETTLEMENT.

There was a slight menace of civil war in the dispute with Ohio with reference to the southern boundary of this State, two years after the settlement of Grand Rapids began; but at this distance in the woods that amounted to nothing more serious than a war of words, and those not very acrimonious.

Upon the outbreak of the war with Mexico in 1846, although the army raised for its prosecution was not large, and Grand Rapids at that time was but a mere hamlet, the martial spirit was aroused, and a considerable number went out from here to join in the conflict; a portion of one company for that service being raised in Grand Rapids.

Andrew T. McReynolds, then of Detroit, in 1847 recruited Company K of the Third U. S. Dragoons, served with it in Mexico as Captain, winning honorable distinction, and was brevetted Major. Afterward, in the War of the Rebellion, he was Colonel of the First New York (Lincoln) Cavalry, serving three years. He was born in Dungannon, Tyrone County, Ireland, on Christmas Day, in 1808. He came to America in 1830, to Detroit in 1833, and to Grand Rapids in 1859. He was prominent as an organizer and as an officer in the Territorial and State military affairs; and served with credit and honor in many important civil positions. He began the practice of law at Detroit in 1840, which was his life profession. He died November 25th, 1898.

#### **Early Citizen Soldiery.**

After the close of the Mexican war, the chief local incitement to military ardor for some years was news occasionally received from the West, of conflicts with border savages. Now and then an officer of the United States Army would obtain enlistments from Grand Rapids and vicinity for frontier service.

July 12, 1855, two local military companies were organized and their officers elected. One was the Grand Rapids Light Guards—W. L. Coffinberry, Captain; F. W. Worden, E. T. Nelson and A.

L. Gage, Lieutenants; M. S. Littlefield, B. B. Church S. S. Porter and G. M. McCray, Sergeants The other was the Grand Rapids Artillery, a west side company—Lucius Patterson, Captain; Baker Borden, Wm. K. Wheeler and Alfred B. Turner, Lieutenants; Silas Hall, Wilson Jones, Gideon Colton and John Dart, Sergeants. The first named of these companies was shortly after reorganized, with Daniel McConnell as Captain, and the name was changed to Valley City Light Guards, and subsequently further shortened to Valley City Guards. In 1856 Mrs. James Lyman started a movement to procure a banner for this company, and a beautiful silk ensign was made by the Misses Ferguson, the presentation of which to the company was an event of considerable public interest. Soon afterward the Ringgold Light Artillery was organized, with Stephen G. Champlin as Captain. About this time, the three companies were mustered into the Fifty-first Regiment Uniformed Michigan Militia, of which Daniel McConnell was Colonel; Orville C. Hartwell, Lieut. Colonel; S. G. Champlin and Ammon Wilson, Majors; Warren P. Mills, Paymaster; D. W. Bliss, Surgeon; Robert M. Collins, Quartermaster; Edward S. Earle, Judge Advocate. These three companies were out on parade for review, January 7, 1858. Another company, the Grand Rapids Rifles, composed mostly of German citizens, was organized in 1859, and this as well as the Valley City Guards, when the war with the South broke out, went with unbroken ranks into the Union Army.

The War for the Union was to the people of this valley like a peal of thunder from a clear sky. Almost half a century, with no trouble except the comparatively minor fight with Mexico, had lulled them into a feeling of repose. Thoroughly loyal themselves, they could scarcely believe that any difference in opinion as to State rights or civil government in our land would eventuate in a clash of arms through the antagonisms of any portion of our common country. Little attention had been paid to military training. The State Militia was a feeble force of less than 1,500 men and officers, poorly armed and equipped. Yet, when war came, that little force served as a foundation for organization.

The attack upon Fort Sumter, April 12th, 1861, the fall of that fortress, and the proclamation, April 15, of President Lincoln, calling for 75,000 men for three months' service in behalf of the Union, roused the military ardor of Grand Rapids to the highest

pitch of enthusiasm. The response was prompt, and the rush to arms instantaneous. A war meeting was held at Luce's Hall, April 15th, 1861, which was addressed by Col. A. T. McReynolds and others. The hall was filled to overflowing, and a spirit of intense patriotism was manifested. The pervading sentiment was to the effect that the Union must be preserved at all hazards and that the people of this county and valley would go to the front to a man, if need be, armed and equipped, for the support of the National Government. A second Union meeting was held on the 22d of April, which was marked by still greater intensity of feeling, and the determination to put forth every possible effort in the loyal cause. The ladies of Grand Rapids caught the patriotic fervor, and held a meeting, April 23, in Mills & Clancy's Hall, Mrs. S. S. N. Greely presiding, and Mrs. S. L. Withey acting as secretary, at which they resolved: "That the ladies of the Valley City are not unmindful of the perils which threaten our country, and they appreciate the patriotism which impels their fathers, husbands, brothers and sons to take the field in defense of the Flag of our Union."

April 20, the officers of the enlisted military companies of the city held a meeting at the armory of the Valley City Guards. Brig. Gen. Wm. A. Richmond presided, and Harvey J. Hollister was Secretary, and then and there was reported the organization of a regiment for the war. This was the Third Michigan Infantry. Here it may be remarked that on the 16th of April a State military meeting had been held in Detroit, at which it was estimated that \$100,000 would be needed immediately, to meet the exigency of the occasion, though the President had only called upon Michigan for one Regiment of Infantry, armed, clothed and equipped. The State finances at this time being at a low ebb, it was determined at once to make an effort to raise the amount by subscription, trusting to the State for reimbursement, a confidence which afterward proved to be well founded. At that meeting \$23,000 was subscribed, and in less than two months the amount reached \$81,020. Ransom C. Luce of Grand Rapids subscribed \$100 for this fund.

#### **Filling a Regiment.**

The Third Regiment (Infantry) was here encamped on the fair grounds, just south of the city—"Cantonment Anderson." It

was mustered May 21 into the State service, and June 10 into the service of the United States. The Valley City Guards tendered their services, were accepted, and formed a company in that regiment.

**“The Boys Are Marching.”**

Cantonment Anderson was a veritable bee-hive of preparation during the month of May. From all the country about came in the volunteers, and scores of enlistments were added daily, until the regiment started for the field June 13, with its ranks swollen to 1,040 men. On the fourth of June, a delegation of thirty-four young ladies, representing the States of the Union, visited the camp, bearing a beautiful silk banner, on which was the inscription in letters of gold: “Presented by the Ladies of Grand Rapids, to the Third Michigan Infantry.” This banner was designed and wrought by Miss Mattie Ferguson, but she did not live to see it again; though it came back after less than two years of service in the field, begrimed and tattered and torn, riddled with bullets, and its folds baptized in blood, but unstained by a single act of dishonor on the part of that gallant body of patriots. It was a notable day in Grand Rapids when these soldiers started out to take part in what proved to be a most sanguinary struggle. There was general suspension of business in the city, as the regiment marched in solid ranks through the streets to the railway station, receiving from the thousands as they passed a benediction of mingled pride and cheers and tears, and prayers for the success of the noble cause for which they had volunteered. No such pageant had ever before been seen here, though similar scenes were destined to become familiar before the war ended.

There was no abatement of this patriotic ardor, and determination to defend the Union, and support the arm of the Government. On the contrary it grew stronger and more intense as the conflict deepened. In response to the succeeding calls of the President in that year, for 500,000 men, here as well as elsewhere volunteers came rushing in for enlistment. In the language of the soldier boys of those days “the woods were full” of patriots.

**Patriotic Boys.**

Even the youth caught the ardor of loyalty, patriotism, and military enthusiasm, and in May, 1861, while the “Old Third”

was filling its ranks, the boys organized a military company which they called the Cadets, but soon changed its name to the Grand Rapids Greys. After a few months of drill, many of the officers and members of this company, enlisted in the regular service, but the organization was kept up at home until near the close of the war.

#### **The Service in the Field.**

Kent county sent 4,214 men to the war. Of the regiments raised in this State, the Second, Third, Sixth, Seventh and Tenth Cavalry were rendezvoused, while forming, and mustered in, at Grand Rapids. Also the Third Infantry and the Third Infantry reorganized were mustered here. Of other regiments, any considerable portion of which was made up from Kent county, were the First Cavalry, mustered at Detroit; the First Engineers and Mechanics, mustered at Marshall; the Eighth Infantry, mustered at Detroit; the Fourteenth Infantry, mustered at Ypsilanti, and the Twenty-first Infantry, mustered at Ionia. The Fifth, Thirteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Infantry, and the Fourth Cavalry, had each some representatives from this part of the State. Companies B, C, and K of the First Light Artillery, and the Thirteenth Battery, also went from Grand Rapids. There were also volunteers from this county among the U. S. Sharpshooters and the First Michigan Colored Infantry. It may safely be said that no troops in the Union did more gallant service, or made a better record than those who went from this Valley. Of those organizations which drew most largely from this city and valley, upward of 3,500 men were killed in action or died of wounds or disease while in the service. There is no record to show the exact number of those who were citizens of Grand Rapids. Some soldiers from this section served in organizations of other States, but this number as compared with the whole number is inconsiderable; a few, also, were in the Regular army.

#### **First Infantry.**

This regiment was raised for three months, and afterward reorganized for three years' service; was then mustered at Ann Arbor, with a strength of 960 officers and men, and left the State September 16, 1861, in command of Col. John C. Robinson, then

a captain in the U. S. Army. Lieut. Col., Horace S. Roberts, Detroit; Major, Franklin W. Whittlesey, Ann Arbor. The reorganized regiment was officered principally by men who had served in the three months regiment. On its arrival at Washington it was reviewed by President Lincoln in person. It led the advance into Virginia, in the spring of 1862, under Col. Roberts, successor to Col. Robinson, who had resigned. During that year it participated in eight engagements, losing its Colonel, 88 men and ten officers. A considerable number of its officers and men were from Kent County. It performed well its part during the war, and was mustered out at Jackson, July 12, 1865, having lost in the line of duty, 243 men.

### Third Infantry.

The "Old Third," under command of Col. Daniel McConnell, who had for some time held a commission as a Colonel in the Uniformed Michigan Militia, was mustered in at Grand Rapids June 10, and left the State for the Potomac, June 13, 1861—Lieut. Col., Ambrose A. Stevens; Major, Stephen G. Champlin; Surgeon, D. Willard Bliss; Asst. Surgeon, Zenas E. Bliss; Quartermaster and Commissary, Robert M. Collins. This regiment was attached to Richardson's Brigade, and in five days after leaving Grand Rapids was in the action at Blackburn's Ford. It afterward belonged to Berry's celebrated brigade, of Kearney's Division. Col. McConnell having resigned, it went into the campaign of 1862 under the command of Col. S. G. Champlin. It fought at Williamsburg May 5, at Fair Oaks May 30, at Charles City Cross Roads June 30, and on July 1 at Malvern Hill. At Fair Oaks its losses were severe—30 killed, 124 wounded and 15 missing, including among the killed Capt. Samuel A. Judd, and among the wounded Col. Champlin. The Third was also engaged at the second battle of Bull Run, losing heavily, and at Chantilly. After the disablement of Col. Champlin, the regiment was under command of Col. Byron R. Pierce, until his promotion to the office of Brigadier General. Under his command it was engaged at Chancellorsville, and afterward at Gettysburg. After Gettysburg in 1863, the Third was engaged at Wapping Heights, then in August proceeded to Alexandria, and thence to New York, to aid in preserving the public peace during the then pending draft, and later to Troy, N. Y., where it was stationed two weeks. Re-



turning to the Army of the Potomac in September, it took part in the advance on Mine Run in November, engaged in several skirmishes, and finally encamped at Brandy Station on the 2d of December. Near the end of this month, 207 of the regiment re-enlisted as veteran volunteers. It afterward took part in the Battle of the Wilderness and engagements at various points in Virginia in May, and at Cold Harbor June 7, 1864. About this time four companies of this regiment were merged in the Fifth Infantry, and served with it until the close of the war. The "Old Third" having been mustered out of service at Detroit, on the twentieth of June, 1864, orders were issued to reorganize the regiment, which was completed in the following October, under Lieut.-Col. M. B. Houghton, to whom that duty was assigned, with 800 officers and men on the rolls of the new organization. October 20, under Houghton's command, the regiment proceeded to Nashville, thence to Decatur, Alabama. Between that time and the close of the war it was engaged at many points in the South; moving in the latter part of 1865 into Western Texas, where it was engaged for a time on provost guard duty. Early in the spring of 1866, the regiment was ordered to Victoria, Texas, where it was mustered out of service May 26, and started for Michigan. Arriving at Detroit June 10, the men were there paid off and disbanded. The enrollment of this regiment was 1,109, its losses were 158, of whom two died of wounds, and 156 of disease, a heavy loss considering the time of service, owing largely to severe marching under a hot sun and in an unhealthy country.

#### **Fifth Infantry.**

The Fifth was organized at Fort Wayne, and mustered into service at Detroit, August 28, 1861, with an enrollment of 900. Colonel, Henry D. Terry; Lieutenant Colonel, Samuel E. Beach; Major, John D. Fairbanks. This regiment took part in battles at Williamsburg, Fair Oaks, Malvern Hill, Chantilly, Fredericksburg, and many other places, acquitting itself handsomely. It continued in active service until the close of the war, and was mustered out July 8, 1865. Not many of its men were from Grand Rapids, though 100 or more were from Kent county. Its losses under fire and by disease footed up 398.

**Eighth Infantry.**

The Eighth Infantry had its first rendezvous at Grand Rapids, and its companies were officered largely from Kent county. It was mustered in at Detroit, Sept. 21, 1861, and left the State on the 27th of that month. Colonel, Wm. M. Fenton; Lieutenant Colonel, Frank Graves; Major, Amasa B. Watson. October 19 it embarked as a part of the "Expeditionary Corps" under Gen. Sherman, for Hilton Head. During the time from its arrival there to the close of 1862, it had a dozen engagements with the enemy, at as many points in the States of South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland. Its assault upon the enemy's works at Secessionville, on James Island, June 16th, 1862, was one of the most daring and gallant during the war. The regiment suffered severely in the loss of men, and among the killed were Captains Benjamin B. Church of Grand Rapids, and Samuel C. Guild of Flint. In 1863 the regiment was transferred to East Tennessee, where it took part in several movements and battles. Again it returned to the Army of the Potomac, and in May, 1864, participated in the Battle of the Wilderness, where was killed Col. Graves, who was then its commanding officer. Col. Ralph Ely succeeded to the command, and the regiment, until the close of the war, continued to do gallant service, participating in many sanguinary battles. It was mustered out near Washington, July 30th, 1865, and on August 3 was disbanded at Detroit. It had borne on its rolls, 1,792 men, and had lost 403 by the casualties of war.

**Thirteenth Infantry.**

This regiment was mustered into service January 17, 1862, at Kalamazoo. Colonel, Charles E. Stuart; Lieutenant Colonel, Orlando H. Moore; Major, Frederick W. Worden. Its first battle, where it fought bravely, losing 95 men, killed, wounded and missing, was at Pittsburg Landing. Among its other important engagements, it participated in the bloody battle at Stone River, and also at Chickamauga. It had a very active and busy career from beginning to end of its service, closing with the Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea with Gen. Sherman. It was mustered out at Louisville, July 25th, 1865, and two days later disbanded at Jackson. Its total enrollment had been 2,084, and its losses numbered 390.

**Fourteenth Infantry.**

Organized and rendezvoused at Ypsilanti, this regiment was mustered February 13, 1862. Robert P. Sinclair, Colonel; Robert W. Davis, Lieutenant Colonel; Myndert W. Quackenbush, Major. It left Ypsilanti April 17, for Pittsburg Landing. Colonel Sinclair and his Lieutenant, Davis, resigned in September, and the regiment was commanded during the latter part of its service by Colonel Henry R. Mizner. It was a gallant organization, largely composed of volunteers of Irish nativity, who never knew when they were whipped. It took part in many sharp engagements, was in the Atlanta campaign, and particularly distinguished itself at the battle of Jonesboro, Ga., Sept. 1, 1864. Its total enrollment was 1,806, and its losses were 247. It was mustered out at Louisville July 18, and disbanded at Detroit July 21, 1865.

**Twenty-first Infantry.**

The Twenty-first Regiment was rendezvoused at Ionia, was raised in the Fourth Congressional District, and recruited largely from Kent and Ionia counties. It was mustered in at Ionia, Sept. 4, 1862, and left for the seat of war Sept. 12. Colonel, Ambrose A. Stevens; Lieutenant Colonel, William L. Whipple; Major, Isaac Hunting. This was eminently a fighting regiment, from the beginning to the end of its service. October 8, less than four weeks after leaving camp at Ionia, it was in the battle of Perryville, Ky. From there it moved to Bowling Green, and then to Nashville. It was engaged at Laverne, Dec. 27, and at Stewart's Creek on the 29th, and also participated in the five days' battle at Stone River, immediately following. This regiment was in the hottest of the fight at Chickamauga, and there was distinguished for its courageous behavior. It served with credit in the Atlanta campaign and the "march to the sea." During most of the two weeks prior to the evacuation of Savannah, in December, 1864, the men of this regiment held a portion of the works in the most exposed position on the line in front of that place. Their rations were short, and they suffered much from hunger and cold, being obliged to lie in the trenches, without tents, and very lightly clad, few of them having blankets. During the twenty-five days occupied on the march from Atlanta, only two and a half days rations were issued to this regiment,

and its subsistence was procured mainly by foraging upon the inhabitants of the country through which it passed. In the latter part of January, 1865, under the command of Capt. Arthur C. Prince, it marched up the Savannah River; in February crossed into South Carolina, and finally through into North Carolina. Encountering the enemy at Bentonville, it had there a sharp engagement with the enemy, suffering considerable loss. The regimental roster showed a total membership of 1,447, and a loss of 368 by the fortunes of war. It was mustered out at the District of Columbia, June 8, and reached Detroit June 13, 1865, where the men were paid and discharged.

#### **Twenty-fifth Infantry.**

This regiment was organized at Kalamazoo, and drew a portion of one company from Kent county. Colonel, Orlando H. Moore; Lieutenant Colonel, Benjamin F. Orcutt; Major, Dewitt C. Fitch. It was mustered into the service Sept. 22, 1862, and left Kalamazoo Sept. 29. It especially distinguished itself July 4, 1863, by its effective defense of a stockade at Tebb's Bend, on Green River, Ky., against the entire command of the rebel General John H. Morgan. It was engaged in the Atlanta campaign, and in Gen. Thomas' defense of Nashville. During 1864 it participated with credit in several battles in Georgia, and was finally mustered out at Salisbury, N. C., June 24, 1865. Its total enrollment was 968 men, and its total loss 166.

#### **Twenty-sixth Infantry.**

The Twenty-sixth was organized at Jackson, was mustered Dec. 12, 1862, and left the State the next day for the war. Colonel, Judson S. Farrar; Lieutenant Colonel, Henry H. Wells; Major, William O'Donnell. Co. I of this regiment was recruited at Lowell, Kent county. While in camp at Jackson the regiment was presented by the ladies of that place with a magnificent silk flag. It was assigned to provost duty in Alexandria, Va., where it remained until April, 1863. In the summer of that year it was part of the force that was sent to New York to assist in maintaining order during the period of mob lawlessness. After that it was in the campaigns of the Army of the Potomac until the close of the war, making for itself a praiseworthy record. It had

a membership of 1,210, while its losses were 259. It was mustered out June 4, 1865, at Alexandria, and on June 7 disbanded at Jackson.

#### **Engineers and Mechanics.**

This regiment was organized under special orders from the War Department, to be composed, as the name indicates, principally of practical engineers and mechanics. Authority to raise it was given to William P. Innes, a civil engineer, who was appointed Colonel, with full power to designate his officers. Enlistment began in August, 1861. It was rendezvoused at Marshall, was mustered into service October 29, and left the State December 17. Colonel, William P. Innes; Lieutenant Colonel, Kinsman A. Hunton; Major, Enos Hopkins; Surgeon, William H. DeCamp. At this time it comprised ten companies, but was subsequently recruited to twelve companies of 150 men each, by Captain P. V. Fox of Company D. In the early part of its service six of the companies were commanded by Grand Rapids men. This regiment won special distinction, not only in its legitimate work as an engineering corps, but also on several occasions as a fighting force. Reaching the field in December, and reporting to Gen. Buell at Louisville, Kentucky, it was assigned to duty in four detachments—one to report to Gen. McCook, commanding at Munfordville, Kentucky; one to Gen. Thomas, at Lebanon; one to Gen. Nelson, at New Haven, and the fourth to Gen. Mitchell, at Bacon Creek. These during January, February and March, 1862, were engaged in various duties, the chief of which was building railroad bridges. In April, Col. Innes with his field and staff and eight companies, were with Buell's Army of the Ohio, in the march for the field of Shiloh, Mississippi, reaching there April 15. On the way they built several road bridges, and the celerity of their work enabled Gen. Buell to reach the scene of action in time to aid Gen. Grant to bring complete victory out of threatened defeat. From its entry into service, to the close of the war, this was an extraordinarily busy regiment. Sent here and there, detachments of the engineers were constantly at work, where building or repairs of roads or bridges were needed. Its services were especially valuable to the Government, and highly appreciated, giving it a National as well as a State reputation second to few or none in the history of the War of the Rebellion. Its three years' time expired October 31, 1864, and such of its

officers as desired to leave the service were mustered out, including Col. Innes. But by re-enlistments it maintained its full strength and organization, until the close of the war, receiving frequently from Gens. Rosecrans, Thomas and others commanding, highly complimentary mention, of the labors and the gallantry of its officers and men. The amount of bridge and railroad building done by this regiment, looking back upon its record, seems almost marvelous. Besides its regular engineering duty, it participated in nearly a dozen serious engagements with the enemy; notably at Farmington and Corinth, Mississippi; at Perryville, Kentucky; at Chattanooga, Tennessee; at the siege of Atlanta, Georgia, and it won meritorious distinction in its gallant defense of Lavergne, Tennessee, during the famous battle of Stone River. Capt. P. V. Fox and the pontoniers under his command received special compliments from Maj. Gen. Thomas for putting a bridge across the river at Brown's Ferry near Chattanooga, October 26, 1863, during a sharp fight. The Engineers and Mechanics went into the field with an aggregate strength of 1,132, which during its service was increased to a total enrollment of 3,200 officers and men. Its losses were thirteen men killed in action or died of wounds, one officer, Capt. James W. Sligh, by railroad accident, and 342 died of disease. The regiment was mustered out September 22, 1865, at Nashville, and three days later disbanded at Jackson. Surgeon William H. DeCamp of this command was appointed Post Surgeon and Medical Director in charge of the hospitals at Harrodsburg, Kentucky, in October, 1862, and for his efficient and humane management received a card of acknowledgment from fourteen surgeons of the Confederate Army. There were several thousand sick and wounded rebel soldiers in those hospitals.

#### First Cavalry.

The First Regiment of Michigan Cavalry was organized at Detroit; was mustered into service at that place September 13, and left for the front September 29, 1861. Colonel, Thornton F. Brodhead; Lieutenant Colonel, Joseph Copland; Majors, William S. Atwood, Angelo Paldi, Charles H. Town. George K. Johnson of Grand Rapids was the first Surgeon of this regiment; after him Samuel R. Wooster; and about fifty of its men were from Kent County. This, with the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Regi-

My brother James May Sligh when 16 years and one month of age (June 1861) enlisted in the 1st Regt Mich. Cav. as private, in the fall of 1861 was promoted to master-major Sept. 10 years later, promoted to a Lt. Col. when 19 years of age was

Commissioned as Capt. of Co. C, and of the 1st Regt Mich. Cav. from the State of Mich.

ments, constituted the celebrated Michigan Cavalry Brigade, of the Army of the Potomac. Going in with 1,144 it carried on its rolls during its service 3,244 officers and men. Its losses numbered—10 officers and 92 men killed in action, 5 officers and 46 men died of wounds, and 5 officers and 246 men died of disease. It was mustered out, paid off and disbanded March 10, 1866, at Salt Lake City, Utah.

### **Second Cavalry.**

The Second Cavalry was organized by Francis W. Kellogg of Grand Rapids, then a member of Congress, under authority given him by the Secretary of War, and was rendezvoused at this city. Lieutenant Colonel, William C. Davis; Majors, Robert H. G. Minty, Seldon H. Gorham, Charles P. Babcock. Surgeon, Charles L. Henderson. It was mustered October 2, 1861, at Grand Rapids, and left November 14 for St. Louis, where Col. Gordon Granger of the U. S. Army took command. Colonel Granger having been promoted to be Brigadier-General, on May 25, 1862, Capt. Philip H. Sheridan of the U. S. Army was appointed Colonel. Sheridan at once assumed command, was soon in the saddle, and in a few days in the spirited fight at Boonville, which resulted in a victory recorded as among the most notable of the minor achievements of the war. July 1, 1862, Sheridan was promoted to be Brigadier-General, and his subsequent brilliant career is well known to all readers of American history. Col. Archibald P. Campbell was then appointed Colonel. The Second was one of the noted active cavalry regiments in the Western Army, and did much to vindicate the cavalry branch of the service from the odium which some of the higher commanders seemed disposed to cast upon it at the beginning of the war. It took prominent part in nearly seventy engagements with the enemy, whose descriptions are set down in the military histories, and therein it made a record of which the State, as well as Grand Rapids, is justly proud. For a time in the fall of 1863, while serving in the First Brigade, it was in command of Major L. S. Scranton. It bore on its rolls during its term of service 2,425 names, and encountered a total loss of 338 officers and men, of whom 70 were killed in action or died of wounds, and 266 died of disease. August 17, 1865, it was mustered out at Macon, Ga., and August 26 paid off and disbanded at Jackson.

**Third Cavalry.**

Simultaneously with the Second, under the superintendence of Col. Kellogg, this regiment was organized at Grand Rapids; was mustered in Nov. 1, and left the State Nov. 28, 1861, under command of Lieut Col. Minty, for St. Louis, where it was stationed at Benton Barracks. Colonel, Francis W. Kellogg; Lieutenant Colonel, Robert H. G. Minty; Majors, Edward Gray, William S. Burton, Obed H. Foote. The appointment of Col. Kellogg having been made by the War Department, he was mustered in with the regiment, but with his consent was soon after mustered out of service, and on March 7, 1862, Capt. John K. Mizner of the U. S. Army was commissioned Colonel. This was also a fighting regiment and made for itself a splendid record. During November and December, 1863, it had very active service, being engaged almost constantly in scouting and various expeditions through Northern Mississippi and Western Tennessee, and at the same time having frequent encounters with the enemy. In January, 1864, 592 of its men re-enlisted, and were mustered in as Veteran Volunteers, after which it had a furlough of thirty days, with rendezvous at Kalamazoo. At the end of 1863 the Third Cavalry had marched more than 10,000 miles, exclusive of marches in separate companies and detachments, and had captured upward of 2,000 prisoners. Its total enrollment during its service was 2,560; total loss, 414, of whom 375 died of disease.

The third was mustered out at San Antonio, Feb. 12, and arrived at Jackson March 10, 1866, where it was paid off and disbanded.

**Fourth Cavalry.**

This regiment went into rendezvous at Detroit, was mustered into service Aug. 29, and left for the front Sept. 26, 1862, under Colonel Robert H. G. Minty. About three score of its men were from Kent county. It was among the foremost of the fighting forces of the war, did splendid service in the campaign of the Army of the Cumberland, participating in more than a hundred battles and skirmishes, and gave the finishing stroke to the Rebellion by the capture of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States, at Irwinville, Ga., under Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin D. Pritchard of Allegan.

At the close of service the Fourth had borne on its rolls 2,217



officers and enlisted men, and had suffered a total loss of 375, of whom 427 died of disease. It was mustered out July 1, 1865, at Nashville, and returned July 10 to Detroit.

#### **Fifth Cavalry.**

This regiment had its rendezvous at Detroit, and was mustered into service there, August 30, 1862. Three or four of its Companies were recruited from Western Michigan, but not a large number of its men were from Grand Rapids. The regiment did hard work and made a splendid record in the field. Russell A. Alger, who went out as a Captain in the Second Cavalry, was made Colonel of the Fifth, February 28, 1863. William G. Beckwith, than whom few saw harder or more adventurous service, and who came home minus a leg, enlisted in Company B, and his record will illustrate the arduous and effective work of the regiment, which lasted until its muster out, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, July 1, 1865. First and last 1,998 names were on its rolls, and its losses numbered 98 killed in action, 24 died of wounds, and 236 died of disease.

#### **Sixth Cavalry.**

Organized at Grand Rapids, under authority granted by the War Department to Francis W. Kellogg, member of Congress, this regiment was mustered October 12, 1862. Colonel, George Gray; Lieutenant Colonel, Russell A. Alger; Majors, Thaddeus Foote, Elijah D. Waters, Simeon B. Brown. Its Quartermaster was Charles H. Patten and its Chaplain was Stephen S. N. Greeley, both of Grand Rapids. A large proportion of its company officers were from Kent County. It left for Washington Dec. 10, 1862. Upon its arrival at Washington it was assigned to the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, and during the following two years performed its part in severe and continuous duty in that service. The rebel General Pickett, who was taken prisoner in one of the engagements near Five Forks, spoke of a charge made by the Sixth Michigan Cavalry as the bravest he had ever seen. Shortly after Lee's surrender, it was ordered to duty in the far West, and had a hard campaign in that region. A flag, borne through many battles, and now in possession of the State, was presented to this regiment while in the field in 1863, by James

H. Kidd of Ionia, then Major. Another, a handsome silk banner presented by citizens of Ionia, in the later part of 1864, carried by the gallant soldiery of this command to the close of the war, the first Union flag that floated over Fort Reno, but a few years ago remained in General Kidd's possession, a highly prized souvenir. The total enrollment of the Sixth was 1,624, and the losses by the casualties of war and by disease numbered 375. It was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, Nov. 24, 1865, and returned Nov. 30 to Jackson, where the men received their discharge.

#### **Seventh Cavalry.**

This body was also raised by the Hon. F. W. Kellogg, of Grand Rapids, and was mustered January 16, 1863. Colonel, William D. Mann; Lieutenant Colonel, Allyn C. Litchfield; Majors, John S. Huston, George K. Newcombe and Henry W. Granger. The first battalion, in command of Colonel Mann, left for the seat of war February 20, and the other companies joined it in May. The regiment did signal service with the Michigan Brigade in all their prominent battles, notably at Gettysburg. It was with the Sixth in repelling a large rebel force at Winchester, August 11, 1864, and showed great gallantry during the closing movements of the war, and up to the final surrender at Appomattox. After this, it went with the Michigan Cavalry Brigade into the frontier service of the West, and, like the Sixth, made a grand record in the Indian campaign among the Rocky Mountains. Total enrollment, 1,179; losses, 322. The regiment was mustered out at Fort Leavenworth, December 15, 1865, and returned to Jackson December 20, where it was paid and disbanded.

#### **Tenth Cavalry.**

The Tenth Cavalry was raised under the direction of Col. Thaddeus Foote. It had its rendezvous at Grand Rapids. Its recruitment began July 4, 1863, and it was mustered into service November 18; Colonel, Thaddeus Foote; Lieutenant Colonel, Luther S. Trowbridge; Majors, Israel C. Smith, Cicero Newell and Wesley Armstrong. The regiment left this city December 1, going to Lexington, Kentucky. In February, 1864, it moved into East Tennessee, where on the 25th of April it made a gallant and successful charge upon the

enemy, at Wastauga, driving the rebels from their works in great disorder; Major Israel C. Smith being the first man to enter the redoubt, and Captain K. Weatherwax the second. The enemy took shelter in a large mill near at hand, and in an unsuccessful attempt to drive them from that position, Capt. Weatherwax lost his life. The Tenth was highly complimented by General Schofield for its behavior on this occasion. From the beginning of its service, the Tenth Cavalry was engaged in very lively work, participating during the fifteen months from January, 1864, to the close of the war, in no less than fifteen battles and skirmishes. It had a brilliant record, and one of which any people might be proud. It was mustered out of service at Memphis, Tennessee, November 11, 1865, and returned to Michigan in command of Col. I. C. Smith, arriving at Jackson, November 15, where it was disbanded. Its total membership had been, while in the service, 2,050. Its losses were 271, of whom 20 were killed in action, 11 died of wounds and 240 of disease.

**George G. Briggs** was born January 24, 1838, in Wayne County, Mich. His father, Nathan H. Briggs, was a native of Massachusetts, and came to Michigan about 1835, engaged in the mercantile business, which he carried on for a time, but died a few years after his arrival at Sturgis, St. Joseph County. His mother was Hannah (Carpenter) Briggs. George was the eldest of four sons; he attended the common schools until about fourteen years of age, when he entered a mercantile establishment in Battle Creek, Mich., serving as clerk for three years. He then spent six months in Olivet college and at the end of that time took a position as book-keeper in the principal mercantile house of Galesburg, Ill.; resigned this, however, five years later and returned to Battle Creek, where he purchased an interest in the firm of Averell & Manchester, the firm then continuing under the name of Averell, Briggs & Co., until 1862, when he disposed of his interests in the business and commenced active participation in the raising of troops for the service of the government, to whose welfare his life and energies were devoted for the ensuing four years, the record itself demonstrating the inestimable value of these services. Through his efforts a cavalry company was raised composed largely of his friends and acquaintances, of which he was appointed First Lieutenant. He entered the service September 13,



*Geo. J. Briggs*



1862, as First Lieutenant in the Seventh Michigan Cavalry; was promoted to Adjutant July 1, 1863; Captain March 22, 1864; Major May 19, 1864; Lieutenant Colonel October 12, 1864; Colonel May 26, 1865. His regiment was a part of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, which won for itself a name second to none in the cavalry corps in the Army of the Potomac, and from January, 1863, to the surrender of Lee, it met the enemy in general engagements fifty-six times. Col. Briggs fought with his regiment at Gettysburg; was in the campaign under Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley, and rendered distinguished services at Winchester, Cedar Creek, Five Forks, Sailor's Creek and Appomattox. On the day of Lee's surrender, Col. Briggs met and conducted the flag of truce party to Gen. Custer, and with them returned to Gen. Lee's headquarters with Custer's reply. Col. Briggs was twice slightly wounded and had four horses killed under him in battle. After the surrender of Lee, Col. Briggs marched two regiments of the brigade across the western plains and was in command of all the cavalry in the South Sub-District of the plains with headquarters at Fort Collins, near Denver, for several months. The command was then moved to Salt Lake City, where, in December, 1865, the Colonel was mustered out. Upon his discharge he immediately returned east to Grand Rapids and in May following was united in marriage to Miss Julia R. Peirce, youngest daughter of the late John W. Peirce, one of the earliest settlers of Grand Rapids, and until his death, in 1874, a leader in both social and business circles. A partnership was entered into between Col. Briggs and his father-in-law under the firm name of Peirce & Briggs in the dry goods business. In 1869 the Colonel withdrew from active participation in this enterprise and became one of the organizers of what is now known as the Michigan Barrel Company. In 1870 this company was organized with a capital of \$300,000.00, the Colonel becoming its secretary and treasurer, serving as such for seventeen years. He has been stockholder and member of the National City Bank, which succeeded to the business of the City National Bank in 1885. In 1883 Col. Briggs organized and was elected president of the Peninsula Novelty Co., of Boston, Mass., patentees of the automatic button-fastener. He is extensively interested in Grand Rapids real estate, owning some of the prominent business blocks; was a stockholder in the Valley City Street

Ry. Co., and a stockholder in the Hazeltine & Perkins Drug Company. In 1868 he represented Grand Rapids in the State legislature and served on several important committees. Through his instrumentality in 1881, the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners was organized, he serving as its president for the first two years. In 1885 he became a member of the Board of Public Works, and in May, 1888, was chosen president; he was one of the organizers of the Board of Trade in 1887 and was elected its first president. He was instrumental in the organization of the Peninsular Club, the leading social club of Grand Rapids, and was its president for one year. He is a member of the Military order of the Loyal Legion, and on April 2, 1890, was appointed Postmaster of Grand Rapids, and served until March, 1894.

His home is on North Ottawa street opposite the court house and is filled with rare art treasures. Col. Briggs is considered the best judge of paintings in the city.

#### **Other Organizations.**

Battery B of the First Light Artillery was organized at Grand Rapids, and was raised at the same time with the Second Cavalry. All its officers were from Detroit. It was mustered November 26, 1861. Its first engagement with the enemy was at Pittsburg Landing, April 6, 1862. Its total membership was 235, and total loss 35. It made a fine record, and was mustered out at Detroit, June 18, 1865.

The rendezvous of Battery C was at Grand Rapids, but none of its original officers were from this city. It left for the field in the Western Army, December 17, 1861. It had a busy and useful term of service, participated in engagements in most of the Southern States, and was mustered out at Detroit, June 22, 1865, having borne on its rolls 239 officers and men, and lost 34 by the fortunes of war.

Battery K was also organized at Grand Rapids, and here mustered into service February 20, 1863. Its officers were from Detroit, and it was composed chiefly, if not wholly, of volunteers of German descent. It was a gallant and useful corps, and engaged during the war on duty in fortifications and on gunboats and transports, and saw much hard service. It went in with 104 names on the rolls, increased to 208 before it was mustered out,

at Detroit, July 12, 1865. Its losses in service were only 14 men.

The Thirteenth Battery, organized at Grand Rapids, went into the U. S. service Jan. 28, 1864. The most of its service was in forts and fortifications in the vicinity of Washington. After the assassination of President Lincoln, it assisted in the arrest of the conspirators, Harold and Mudd. It was mustered out of service July 1, 1865. Total enrollment during its term of service, 257; losses, thirteen.

Two or three companies of the First and one of the Second Regiment U. S. Sharp Shooters were in part recruited at Grand Rapids. This was an arm of the service that was of great use in the war, much more valuable in fact than the slight prominence given it in the military reports would seem to indicate. Recruitment of Sharp Shooters began in the fall of 1862, but the First Regiment was not mustered in until July 7, 1863. The greater part of the campaign of these troops was in conjunction with the Army of the Potomac, and this force, then in the brigade of Col. Ralph Ely, was the first to enter Petersburg when that place was surrendered to the Union arms. It took part in many important engagements in Virginia, and was mustered out of service July 28, 1865, and on the 7th of August was paid and disbanded at Jackson. Its entire enrollment was 1,364, and 263 was the total of its losses.

One regiment of colored men was raised in the State, originally known as the First Michigan Colored Infantry, afterward designated as the 102d Regiment U. S. Colored Troops. Its Colonel was Henry Barns of Detroit. Some of the companies of this force were filled in part from Grand Rapids. The regiment left Detroit March 28, 1864. They were in ten different engagements between July, 1864, and May, 1865, in the State of South Carolina. September 30, 1865, they were mustered out at Charleston, and soon after disbanded at Detroit.

The Eleventh Cavalry, organized at Kalamazoo, had upon its staff Major Henry L. Wise of Caledonia, Kent county; also Assistant Surgeon O. J. Bissell and Chaplain Charles Clutz of Grand Rapids.

Company K of the First (Lincoln) Cavalry—a regiment organized and commanded in the field by Col. A. T. McReynolds, of this city—was recruited here by Capt. Anson N. Norton, with



Henry W. Granger and Franklin G. Martindale as Lieutenants, all of Grand Rapids.

### **The Soldiery Since the War.**

When the war with the South was ended it was natural that the fires of patriotism should continue to burn. They could not die out. Nearly every household had in its presence a husband, father, son or brother, or at least some near relative, just returned from the long struggle, worn and weary, broken in health, or perhaps maimed and crippled for life, as a reminder of what this Union of ours had cost. This intensity of feeling was notably evinced in the manner of their welcome home of the returning heroes; as was indicated in the sumptuous dinner given by the ladies of this city July 4, 1865, on which occasion tables were set the entire length of Pearl Street Bridge for the "boys in blue." Scarcely had the returned veterans settled down in their homes before the memories of their camp life and the friendships formed in the service awakened in them a desire to renew in another form the comradeships of the war. From this grew their meetings by companies and regiments, the formation of civil organizations and their annual, or frequent reunions. The Twenty-first Infantry met and formed a reunion organization December 31, 1866. Nearly every year since has witnessed an assemblage of this character, of some remnant of the Union Army, at which the boys shake hands anew, relate their experiences and "fight their battles o'er again" in song and story and speech.

The Second Michigan Cavalry had a reunion January 6, 1870, at Sweet's Hotel, at which a reception was given to General Sheridan. At the same meeting an association was formed, of which Gen. P. H. Sheridan was made president. The Grand Rapids officers were—L. S. Scranton, vice-president; Edwin Hoyt, Jr., corresponding secretary; J. M. Weatherwax, treasurer. February 23, 1871, the "Old Third" Michigan Infantry organized an association—President, E. S. Pierce; secretary, J. H. Sumner; treasurer, George E. Judd. January 24, 1872, a few of the surviving veterans of Company K, Lincoln Cavalry, had a pleasant reunion meeting and supper, at which they were addressed by their former Colonel, A. T. McReynolds. One of the toasts was the fol-

lowing: "The Lincoln Cavalry—the first in the service and the last out of the service." The "Old Third" Association held its second annual reunion December 14, 1872, and elected Captain Frederick Shriver, president. The reunions of the "Old Third" have become annual events in Grand Rapids. The First Michigan Infantry Association held its second annual reunion in Grand Rapids, August 28, 1873, at which time only seven of its veterans were residents of this city.

September 8, 1873, the Grand Rapids Guards were called out and ordered to Muskegon, under command of I. C. Smith, to guard the jail at that place, a riot being deemed imminent; a commission which they executed with alacrity and fidelity.

September 19, 1873, the veterans of the Third Michigan Cavalry held a reunion and organized an association at the Council Rooms in this city—President, Capt. D. M. Caldwell of Whitmore Lake.

March 23, 1874, the Guards were ordered to Greenville, to report to the Sheriff of Montcalm county, for the purpose of preserving the peace at Gowen, where there was some trouble among the Flat River log drivers. Fortunately their services were not needed, but the boys gallantly "marched up the hill and then marched down again."

In 1876, beginning August 7, the Second Regiment of State Troops held its annual encampment for drill and instruction at Reeds Lake—Camp Custer. On the ninth their exercises were enlivened by a sham battle. In 1877, beginning July 25, they had another parade upon the same ground, lasting five days. Col. I. C. Smith was in command on both occasions, and the troops were visited by thousands from the city and about. The encampment of the regiment was again held there with target practice in 1879, beginning August 14 and holding five days.

The Department of Michigan of the Grand Army of the Republic had its annual meeting here January 13, 1880, at which eight Posts were represented and Andrew T. McReynolds was elected Department Commander. November 23, 1880, the Grand Rapids Guard at its armory was presented with a beautifully mounted and elaborately wrought silk banner. The embroidery was the work of Mrs. Anna Thompson and Mrs. B. J. Kromer. A supper and ball rounded out the festivities of the occasion. In

*Some of the members of the Grand Army of the Republic but assigned to duty to dedicate to the Department of Michigan*

1881 Co. B, under Capt. H. W. Calkins, went with the Michigan Battalion, under Gen. I. C. Smith, and attended the Centennial Celebration, October 19, at Yorktown, of the surrender by Lord Cornwallis to General Washington. July 4, 1882, there was a drill and sham battle upon the fair grounds by the Militia, in which several companies from abroad participated. April 8, 1886, a Western Michigan Association of Veteran Soldiers and Sailors was organized at a meeting held in the Morton House, starting with 117 members. President, Wm. P. Innes; vice-president, George N. Davis; secretary, H. D. C. Van Asmus; treasurer, Loomis K. Bishop.

September 15, 16 and 17, 1885, occurred the reunion of the Society of the Army of the Cumberland in this city, filling the town with veterans from all parts of the country. On the same occasion besides that of the "Old Third," were held here reunions of Mexican War Veterans, the Sons of Veterans, Eighth Michigan Cavalry, the Second Michigan Cavalry, the Fourteenth Infantry, Twenty-first Infantry and the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. At that time the Soldiers' Monument at the head of Monroe street was unveiled and dedicated. With street processions, parades and military maneuvers on the fair grounds, the presence of distinguished military guests from abroad, the speeches and banqueting and social meetings, this was the most notable celebration of a semi-military character held here since the civil war.

When the Spanish-American war broke out in 1898 it found Grand Rapids as ready for the fray as any city in the land. The day war was declared the Grand Rapids companies were ordered to Camp Eaton at Island Lake and obeyed at once. They left Grand Rapids April 26th. There were exercises on Campau Square and the volunteers were addressed by Mayor Stow, Rev. John N. McCormick, General Byron M. Cutcheon and Judge E. A. Burlingame.

On May 16th a portion of the Grand Rapids battalion left Camp Eaton for Chickamauga, and on the 18th the Thirty-second U. S. Infantry Michigan Volunteers under Col. Wm. T. McGurrin, left the same camp for Tampa, Florida.

No Grand Rapids company saw the smoke of battle in the Spanish war, but it was the fault of the war department in giving them no chance. They were ready and anxious for active service.

Grand Rapids furnished one soldier for Roosevelt's regiment of Rough Riders, W. Frank Knox, who went through the Cuban campaign.

### Company B.

Company B of Grand Rapids now meets every Tuesday evening in the Armory Hall in the Clock building on South Ionia street. The following are the chief events in the history of the company:

It aided in suppressing a riot in Muskegon, 1874. It helped in suppressing a riot in Greenville, 1874. It attended the one hundredth anniversary of battle of Yorktown, 1881. It was present at the national prize drill at Washington, in 1887, and the dedication of World's Columbian Exposition, in 1892. It was mustered into the 32nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, in 1898, for the Spanish-American war.

The following have been officers of the company with highest rank attained while in the company.

Captains—George E. Judd, Israel C. Smith, Joseph C. Herkner, William F. Bradley, Henry W. Calkins, William T. McGurrian, Morris A. Heyman, William S. Kinney, John D. Kromer, John H. Taylor, William B. Kalmbach, Fred W. Morrison, Earl R. Stewart, John Bogert, Wm. B. Kalmbach.

First Lieutenants—Eugene W. Jones, J. G. Evered, A. B. Porter, Fred J. Morrison, B. F. Littlefield, A. B. Richmond, Jacob Schrouder, James Robinson, F. E. Giddings, James H. Noel, Ray M. Campbell, E. H. Campbell, M. D. Hoogesteger.

Second Lieutenants—Charles W. Calkins, W. L. White, Fred Baker, C. E. Linzee, F. S. Elston, F. E. Spraker, Geo. H. Hastings, William H. Proper, Arnold Claver, Jay D. Lawton.

Company B is the oldest of the local companies. With one exception it is the oldest in the Second regiment, and there are but three or four companies in the state troops whose muster dates further back.

Company B was organized June 27, 1872, and was mustered into the state service November 26, 1872. It has taken part in some notable affairs since that time and has numbered many notable men in its ranks. It is estimated that 1,500 citizens of Grand Rapids have served in the company since its birth.

Among them were Gen. I. C. Smith, who was captain of the company, colonel of the regiment and brigadier general of the

*I was one of the charter members of this company*

First brigade; General McGurrin, at present adjutant general of the Michigan National Guard; Gen. W. L. White, brigadier general and quartermaster general of the state troops, and lieutenant colonel of the Thirty-fifth Michigan volunteers during the Spanish war; Col. C. H. Rose, once colonel of the Second Michigan infantry; First Lieutenant Leon B. Kromer, now in the Tenth U. S. Cavalry, and many others.

### **Company G.**

The date of organization of Company G was November 30, 1897, when it was known as the White Guard in honor of Gen. W. L. White, then Quartermaster General. Its first officers were: Captain, Berkey Jones; First Lieutenant, Walter K. Schmidt; Second Lieutenant, John Lane, who served through the Spanish-American war.

The company went through the Spanish war as a part of the Thirty-second Michigan Infantry, but only got as far as Tampa. Had it not been for the breaking down of a transport, the company would have seen Cuba, although it is probable it would have been too late for active service against the Spaniards.

The officers of the company, with the highest rank attained while in the company, are as follows:

Captains—Berkey Jones, Walter K. Schmidt, Alonzo Steketee, Gay Dayrell, Harry D. Watson, Edgar H. Campbell, 2nd Infantry, Nov. 30, 1903, transferred from Company B.

First Lieutenants—John Lane, Leroy G. Withey, Jess W. Clark, transferred from Company K, 2nd Infantry, 1904.

Second Lieutenants—Arthur W. Zoet, Forrest E. Hutchings, Wm. Haze.

The company participated in the Spanish-American war as Company G, 32nd Michigan Volunteers. After their return it was reorganized as Company M, 2nd Infantry M. N. G., and was known by that letter until 1905, when it was again given the old letter. Company G also participated in the National Encampment at West Point, Ky., in 1903. It meets every Thursday evening in Armory Hall, on South Ionia street.

### **History of Company H.**

Company H was mustered into the state service July 27, 1882, and is the second oldest of the local companies. For several years

it was known as the Custer Guards and as such attained much fame as the best drilled company in the state.

In 1886, under Captain C. H. Rose, afterwards Lieutenant of the regiment, it took the first prize at Muskegon. That fall at Jackson, during the state fair, it took third place, but next spring at a competition held in Washington, D. C., it beat the company which defeated it at Jackson and came to be known as champions of the state.

The first officers of the company were: Captain, C. H. Rose; First Lieutenant, Charles W. Loud; Second Lieutenant, Henry Hydorn.

It enlisted for the Spanish-American war at Island Lake, Mich., April 26, 1898, and was mustered into the U. S. service as Company E, 32nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, May 13, 1898. During the war it was in camp at Tampa and Fernandina, Fla., and Huntsville, Ala. It was mustered out of state service in July, 1898, while at Tampa, Fla., in order to make room for a home company. It was mustered out of the volunteer service at Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 27, 1898, and was reinstated in state service May, 1899, as Company H, 2nd Infantry. It took part in the U. S. Army maneuvers at West Point, Ky., Sept. 30, 1903, to Oct. 11, 1903.

A list of its officers since 1890 are as follows:

Captains—Ed. C. Bennett, John J. Vos, John L. Boer, Dennie W. Berr (3 months), Geo. C. Blickle.

First Lieutenants—Percy F. Storrs, Frank Idema, Oscar E. Kilstrom, Ralph A. Mosher.

Second Lieutenants—A. J. Giddings, H. Oswald Fiebig, Harry J. Fitts, Robert G. Hill.

### **History of Company K.**

Company K was mustered into the state service June 28, 1895, succeeding the Innes Rifles, which were mustered out just before that period. The first officers of the company were: Captain, Edward C. Bennett, formerly Captain of the Custer Guards; First Lieutenant, Harold A. Smith; and Second Lieutenant, Louis C. Covell. Both of the lieutenants were formerly non-commissioned officers in the Custer Guards under Captain Bennett.

The company left Grand Rapids for Island Lake April 26,

1898, where it was mustered into the volunteer service. It left for Tampa on May 18.

The company served with credit during the Spanish-American war as Company H, 32nd Michigan Volunteers, and went as far as Tampa with the rest of the regiment. The company was mustered out at Grand Rapids on October 28, 1898. After the war the letter was changed to K.

The present officers are: Captain John H. Schouten; First Lieutenant, Fred Scott; Second Lieutenant, Chas. A. Howard.

It meets in the Armory on Monday evenings.

Grand Rapids is a city of industry and peaceful pursuits, but should the nation again be in peril as in the days that have passed, Grand Rapids will respond as in '61 and '98.

## CHAPTER XXVI.

### THE BENCH AND BAR.

The bench and bar of Kent County have had an existence of about seventy years and the time naturally falls into three periods, which can be called the poetic age, the romantic age, and the prosaic age. Each age had its typical judge and its typical lawyer; and in each period the bench and bar made their imprint upon the history of our commonwealth, and the development of Grand Rapids.

In the pioneer days the judges came to Grand Rapids across the country either by stage or on horseback, disposed of the business on hand either in a day or a week as the business required and departed for the next county. Sometimes lawyers from Kalamazoo, Marshall or Detroit came with the judge and assisted local attorneys in trying important cases, but those were events in the old days, for important cases were few and far between. For the first two years court was held in private houses or at the village taverns and the business was disposed of in a day or two, but in 1838 the county built a court house on what is now Fulton Street Park. It was a two-story frame building 30 by 40 feet in size fronting east and west. It was built by Sylvester Granger and William J. Blakely at a contract price of \$3,000. A few years afterwards Sylvester Granger was admitted to the Kent County bar in the building he had helped to erect.

On July 12, 1844, the court house was destroyed by fire. The county at once built at a cost of \$300 a single-room building on the site of the old court house which was used for about eight years as a place for holding court, and then for nearly forty years the Kent County Court like the Hebrews of old wandered in the wilderness and had an abiding place in rented halls and vacant buildings until the present court house was completed in 1891. The itinerant judges of the early days were not profound jurists, but they did know human nature and the needs of the growing communities in which their lot was cast. They knew how to apply common law and common sense to the disputes of the pio-



neers, and in criminal matters knew how to give fair play to the accused and how to dispense justice to the convicted. There were not many appeals from their decisions; they commanded the respect and confidence of the bar and the public. They worked hard and received little pecuniary reward, but they did a great work for Michigan in establishing law and order, and making business methods fair and honest. All honor and glory to the bench of by-gone days!

The bar in pioneer days was decidedly different from the bar of today. The pioneer lawyer did little law business for the simple reason that there was little law business to do. During the first fifteen years there was not enough legitimate law business in the courts of record of Kent County to support a single lawyer and his family at the prices then paid for legal services. The result was that the pioneer lawyers did other work than law business. The petty cases of Justice Court furnished some business. Many of the pioneer lawyers were elected Justices of the Peace and were glad to increase their professional incomes with the perquisites of the office. Many obtained agencies from insurance companies and solicited insurance; nearly all acted as local representatives for outside land owners, and whenever there was a real estate transfer made a few honest shillings in commissions and for conveyancing. A few lawyers added journalism to their accomplishments and edited and managed local newspapers. Many were politicians and whenever it was possible added the fees of office and the pleasures of public life to their professional incomes and honors. The real aristocrats of the profession acted as loan agents for eastern capitalists and negotiated real estate loans to the settlers, or were representatives of eastern commercial houses who gave credit to local business men, and collected payments when due, or secured good promises for future payments.

The old time lawyer was not troubled with a large number of law books and law periodicals to distract his attention from other professional duties, but those that he had were generally well read and well worn. He did not have ready-made forms and precedents for his cases, but had to use his own knowledge and genius in preparing his pleadings.

The old time lawyers did not become rich and affluent, but if they were wise and shrewd they obtained control of cheap lands

and town lots and franchises that afterwards rapidly increased in value and made them and their families comfortable and independent.

In the pioneer age or poetic age of the Kent County bar the average lawyer was a Jack of all professions and practicing law was but an incident in his career, but many of them in the romantic age reaped the fruits of their studies and experiences in the poetic age. The pioneer lawyers were good fellows and good citizens. They knew everybody and everybody knew them. They did much for Grand Rapids and Kent County.

After Grand Rapids was organized as a city in 1850 and Kent County had become well settled there came a time when the attorneys of the county could give their entire time and attention to the practice of law and obtain a good income therefrom. Grand Rapids had a resident judge and the business of the courts rapidly increased. Many settlers came and commenced to clear out farms in the wilderness. They had their troubles and needed the assistance of courts and lawyers. Lumbermen began to buy timber lands and cut timber and ship forest products. They made many contracts with one another and with farmers, and with business men both at home and abroad that were broken or not lived up to, and the result was extensive litigation for lawyers and courts.

Again soon after 1850 Grand Rapids became an attractive point for projected railroads and plank roads and transportation companies, and the usual attending troubles of such enterprises brought business to lawyers and courts.

About that time also many corporations were organized, and as corporations have no souls they had to employ lawyers to furnish them a conscience with which to transact business.

At that time, too, Grand Rapids began to be the headquarters for conducting business enterprises in other counties, which tended to increase the legal business of the city.

Early in this period lawyers began to accumulate books for law libraries and the city soon possessed the leading reports of the country and all the text-books of law both American and English.

During the romantic period of the law practice in Grand Rapids the attorneys retained their leadership in public, municipal, and political affairs which they had obtained in pioneer days.

Each lawyer of any standing had his clients and acquaintances throughout the community upon whom he could call for aid in a worthy enterprise, or assistance in a political or business scheme. The consequence was that in those days lawyers knew what was going on, knew how to start things going, and how to keep them going after they had started. Lawyers dominated in social and business affairs.

But it was in politics that the lawyers demonstrated their chief power and influence. In the days preceding and during the great civil war national and state politics were often in a chaotic state and political excitement ran high. Political prizes became valuable. Large sums of money were collected for national defense and state improvements. All these things helped the business of the lawyers and increased their prestige.

With their leadership in general affairs each lawyer developed a personality and cultivated a following that advertised his business, his influence and his success. Lawyers fostered their own social qualities and improved all opportunities to extend their acquaintanceship and their standing. Good fellowship was cherished as a valuable business asset. But it was in the court room, in the trial of causes, that the lawyer of the romantic age was at his best. Important cases were frequently tried and people flocked to the court room for entertainment. They went in crowds to hear attorneys who had become famous for eloquence, repartee, wit, shrewd cross-examination, good story telling, and humor. Attorneys who had idiosyncrasies of word and manner never lacked for an audience. Lawyers' arguments, manners and smartness were discussed and commented upon outside the court room; outside attorneys who attended court were compared with home attorneys, and both modesty and loyalty compel the admission that the Kent County bar did not suffer in the comparisons.

In those days there were men who enjoyed law suits and paid their attorneys well for the excitement of the contest and the love of possible victory. They were public benefactors who liberally patronized the law for the entertainment it furnished the public. In these degenerate days such patrons of a noble profession have almost ceased to exist. In those days the court room was a theater in which lawyers were the actors, the cause was the play, and the public furnished the audience.

In that happy period the people applauded and appreciated their lawyers. It was the romantic age of the law practice.

What a change to this prosy age of the law practice! Nowadays cases involving hundreds of thousands of dollars are tried with a lawyer and his clerk on one side, another lawyer and his stenographer on the other, the judge, the jury and a half dozen sitters on the back seats, and all acting as if the whole thing was a bore.

These declining days have seen a Grand Rapids court room filled with attorneys of national reputation representing different interests at a hearing where the issues involved millions of dollars, who argued for hours with an audience of less than a dozen persons beside the interested attorneys and their assistants. Very seldom do civil causes attract any attention from the public. Cases filled with romance and pathos are tried to empty benches. The great public which in the old days took such an interest in law suits and lawyers has almost ceased to attend the courts. The successful lawyer has ceased to be a hero; the romance of the law has departed. A law suit is no longer a drama in which the end is waited for by the public with bated interest. The public no longer discusses the dress, the manners, and the appearance of attorneys. Attorneys themselves are dry and prosaic. Most law suits are simply investigations of mistakes and misunderstandings in business transactions. Lawyers are no longer orators and actors; they are plain business men who receive their chief fees and glory in keeping their clients out of trouble. They no longer entertain and amuse the public.

Grand Rapids has had many exciting and interesting law suits. Some were of interest to the public, others to the profession, of which a few examples can be given.

The first murder trial in Kent County was had at the May term of 1843. Judge Ransom presided. The people were represented by Thomas B. Church, who had located at the Rapids less than a year before, and was assisted by Samuel Clark, an attorney of Kalamazoo. The defense was represented by Simeon M. Johnson, Julius C. Abel and George Martin, all pioneer attorneys.

In December, 1842, two white men named Miller and Hovey, driving an ox team from the forks of the Muskegon river to its mouth, fell in with a squaw named "Nega." The Indians of Muskegon river, missing the Indian woman, who was a daughter

of a chief, searched for her and found her body with a broken neck, near where the white men had camped. They took up the trails of the white men and found that Hovey had taken the team to the starting place, while Miller had fled down the river and up the lake shore towards Saugatuck. Hovey claimed to know nothing of the murder, while Miller was a fugitive. T. D. Gilbert, who was then Sheriff of Ottawa County, after a time arrested Miller, at the light house near the mouth of Kalamazoo river, and brought him to Grand Rapids. The Indians immediately demanded "a life for a life," but were restrained by the efforts of Louis Campau and Rix Robinson.

Miller was tried and convicted chiefly upon the evidence of Hovey. At that time capital punishment prevailed in Michigan and the convicted man was sentenced to be hung, but he was reprieved until the bill abolishing capital punishment became a law, when he was sent to prison. In a few years Hovey died, and on his death bed he confessed that he was the guilty party. Miller was then pardoned. Thus Kent County escaped the stain of an execution. A scaffold was prepared under the direction of Sheriff Withey, but for the reasons given was never used.

In 1851 occurred the celebrated Mills trial. George Mills was a character who had been in Grand Rapids from early days and by questionable methods had accumulated considerable property and with certain classes had much influence. He possessed a quarrelsome disposition and a vindictive, revengeful temper. Many citizens were not surprised when he was arrested for burning a grocery. There were many delays but finally the case was brought on for trial.

The prosecution was conducted by E. E. Sargeant and Tom Church of Grand Rapids, and John Van Armen of Marshall; the defense was conducted by Judge Goodman of Detroit and Samuel Clark of Kalamazoo, assisted in outside work by local attorneys. The trial took sixty days and was held in an audience room on the West side near Bridge street. From start to finish every step was stubbornly contested and every point of law disputed. The court room was crowded at every session. Many ladies attended. Platforms were erected on the outside near the windows to accommodate the hearers. Everybody knew George Mills and many people had a personal interest in his conviction or acquittal. In his closing argument Tom Church made one of the great-

est speeches of his life. When the trial closed the court officers, the jury and the attorneys were in a state of physical exhaustion from their duties. The respondent was convicted, and sentenced to prison, but was released before completing his term. He did not return to Grand Rapids to reside.

A leading case in the admiralty and interstate commerce of the United States was the case of "The Daniel Ball" decided by the United States Supreme Court in December, 1870. It was a Grand Rapids case. In March, 1868, "The Daniel Ball," a steamboat of one hundred and twenty-three tons burden, was navigating Grand river between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven and transporting merchandise and passengers without having been inspected or licensed under the laws of the United States. The government filed a libel against the boat in the United States District Court at Grand Rapids to recover a penalty for neglecting to obtain inspection and license. Two questions were presented for the decision of the court: First, whether the steamer was engaged in transporting merchandise and passengers on a navigable water of the United States within the meaning of the acts of Congress; second, whether those acts were applicable to a steamer engaged as a common carrier between places in the same state when only a portion of the merchandise transported was destined to places in other states, or came from places without the state. Both questions were decided in the affirmative by the Supreme Court, and the principles of law declared in that case became the basis for the Interstate Commerce Act and the decisions sustaining it.

The libel was dismissed by Judge Withey of the District Court, but his decision was reversed by Judge Swan of the Circuit Court and the libel was sustained by the Supreme Court of the United States. Col. A. T. McReynolds appeared for the boat, the U. S. officials for the government.

A case in these later days that attracted unusual attention from the public and the profession was the case of Haines vs. Hayden, reported in 95 Mich., at page 332. It was tried in the Kent Circuit Court in February and March, 1892, in the old court rooms of the Norris Block just before the court house was completed. Eminent counsel were employed on both sides. It was a will case. For the proponent were Major L. Dunham, E. A. Maher and Williard Kingsley of Grand Rapids, and Alfred

Russell of Detroit; for the contestant were C. H. Gleason, M. J. Smiley and Edwin F. Uhl.

It was a case filled with scandal and hatred and all the baser passions of human nature. In popular parlance it was known as the "Jocky Brown" will case.

In June, 1891, James H. Brown died at the age of 84, leaving an estate amounting to about \$160,000, and two daughters who were sisters, or supposed to be sisters, and who were both past the meridian of life. Brown for years had been a familiar figure in the courts of Kent County. He was a sharp, shrewd, unyielding and in a measure unscrupulous man who drove hard bargains and always insisted on all his legal rights. He was a money loaner and speculator and universally was known as "Jocky Brown." In his last years he was blind, but nevertheless always had cases pending in court and gave personal attention to their conduct.

By the terms of his will he gave almost his entire estate to his eldest daughter and made her an executor of his will; to the other daughter he simply gave the income from \$10,000, and even that portion was to be held and controlled by the favored sister and the income doled out as her judgment might dictate.

The less favored sister contested the will on the grounds of undue influence and mental incapacity, and produced evidence tending to show that the favored sister had poisoned her father's mind when the will was made, into believing that the less favored sister was not the child of the testator; in fact the favored sister gave testimony tending to show that her own mother was unchaste and that her younger sister was illegitimate. Of course the testimony took the usual wide range of a will case; everything said and done by "Jocky Brown" and his family for fifty years was investigated. All the dry bones of the family skeleton were thoroughly shaken and dusted. When the arguments came it was a contest of giants. All connected with the case were well known advocates. Mr. Uhl and Mr. Smiley had long been considered among the leaders of the Kent County bar; they had long been rivals and generally on opposite sides, but now they were associates and each was determined to equal if not to surpass his own best efforts. Mr. Russell had a national reputation as a lawyer and advocate. During the entire trial of weeks' duration the court room was filled and when the arguments came all avail-

able space in reach of the voices of the advocates was crowded. But the jury did for "Jocky Brown" dead what no man had been able to do for him living: they broke his will, and their verdict was sustained by the Supreme Court.

All the lawyers of the poetic age, and most of those in the romantic age have passed away. They did a good work for their adopted city. They did their share in establishing its institutions, and developing its resources. The stories of their struggles can be read with profit. Many left only fragmentary records, and are unrecorded. Others are here given.

**Ebenezer S. Eggleston** was born at Batavia, N. Y., May 2, 1825. When twelve years of age, he came to Hillsdale County, Mich., where he received a good education and studied law. In 1851 he came to Grand Rapids and completed his legal studies so that he was admitted the next year. In 1856 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney; in 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln Consul to Cadiz, Spain; in 1872 he was elected a member of the State Legislature. He was once a candidate for Circuit Judge, but aside from those ventures in politics, Mr. Eggleston made the practice of law his life work. For more than forty years he was a lawyer and known as such to the profession and the public; he was never a specialist but always conducted a general practice, and was equally eminent as a counsellor, pleader and an advocate; he was always a courteous gentleman, well thought of by his associates, his natural suavity of manner and sweetness of temper being cultivated and refined by his diplomatic experiences. He appeared in all courts and could hold his own in all branches of litigation.

On August 28, 1892, he died in the harness and exemplified the traditions of the profession by living well and dying poor.

**Solomon L. Withey** was born at St. Albans, Vermont, April 21, 1820. His father was Solomon Withey, who came to Grand Rapids in 1836 and was Sheriff of Kent County from 1842 to 1845. When Solomon Withey came to Grand Rapids, his son, Solomon L. Withey, stopped at Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, where he worked and attended school until about 1838, when he came to Grand Rapids and taught school near where now is the court house. In 1839 he commenced to study law with the firm of Rathbone & Martin; he was admitted May 17, 1843, while his father was Sheriff of the county. For a year after his admission he remained



as clerk in the office of Rathbone & Martin and then commenced practice for himself. In 1848 he was elected Judge of Probate and held the office for four years. His professional partnerships at different times were with George Martin, John Ball, Edward E. Sargent, E. S. Eggleston and George Gray. During the years of his practice, he was a leading lawyer of the county and obtained a state reputation. Few important cases were tried in Kent County in which he was not retained.

In 1861 he was elected State Senator and did good service for the state by his efforts and success in preventing the railroad companies of the state from securing title to public lands for building railroads before the roads were actually completed. On March 11, 1863, he was appointed by President Lincoln the first United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, and ably performed the duties of that office for the rest of his life. He was also a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1867, taking a leading part in its work. He died at San Diego, Cal., April 25, 1886.

Judge Withey was not a profound student of the subtleties and technicalities in the law, but he possessed a large fund of common sense and an intuition for justice and equity that made him a successful lawyer and a good judge; he knew men and their motives and how to apply legal principles to business affairs, and as a result, he won success at the bar and commanded the respect on the bench; he was sagacious in business and laid the foundations for successful business enterprises and investments that are still managed and controlled by his family.

**John T. Holmes** was born December 11, 1815, at Carlisle, N. Y. He attended the common schools of Niagara County and select school in Cherry Valley. In March, 1836, he married and the next year moved to Detroit; in 1838 he came to Grand Rapids and engaged in business for about three years, devoting his leisure hours to studying law, finally giving his entire time to the study, and on May 19, 1843, with Solomon L. Withey and Sylvester Granger, was admitted to the Kent County bar before Judge Ransom. They were the first law students admitted in the county. In 1845 he was chosen Justice of the Peace; in 1852 and 1854 he was elected Prosecuting attorney. In 1875 he was elected the first Judge of the Superior court and held the office

for six years. In April, 1882, he was elected Judge of the Police court and held that office until his death, June 16th, 1891.

Judge Holmes was always a Democrat, but during the war, was an ardent supporter of the Union cause. When not engaged in official duties he was a successful practitioner of law and had his share of success, being careful and painstaking in preparing and presenting his cases. He always lived a clean, useful life and commanded the respect of his fellows.

**Thomas B. Church** was born in Bristol, Co., Mass., September 13, 1813. He was given the best of educational advantages and was graduated from Trinity college at Hartford. He came to Michigan in 1838 and engaged in surveying and civil engineering; studied law at Marshall, Mich., took a course in the Harvard Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1841; in 1842 he settled in Grand Rapids for the practice of his profession, where he resided until his death, July 30, 1890.

Mr. Church was a genius—a man of marked mental powers; he wrote much for the newspapers and had great literary ability; he was an orator whose eloquence often astounded and delighted his audience both upon the stump and in the court room. He was not always eloquent in trying cases, however; sometimes the fire did not flash, but let his powers be aroused by a just cause weighing in the balance, an act of injustice, the obstinacy of a witness, or the force of a worthy opponent, and he would suddenly call together the vast stores of his memory and overwhelm court and jury with his oratory. It did not need a great case or a large audience to arouse his talents. In Justice court he sometimes overwhelmed court and jury with his eloquence, if he detected injustice or oppression in an adversary. He was appointed Prosecuting Attorney soon after coming to Grand Rapids and conducted the first murder trial in the county. He assisted the prosecution in the Mills case, more than 50 years ago. He assisted in the prosecution of Vanderpool when he was tried at Kalamazoo and Hastings, a case which attracted wide-spread attention in Michigan nearly forty years ago.

The memory of no member of the Kent County bar is surrounded with more romance and regard than is that of Tom Church.

**Charles P. Calkins** was a pioneer lawyer of Grand Rapids, who was born in Hinesburg, Vermont, January 24th, 1803. He at-

tended the schools of his native state, but came to Michigan as a young man and completed his literary and law studies at Kalamazoo and Ann Arbor. He was admitted to the bar of Michigan in 1835. The next year he settled in Grand Rapids where he practiced law until 1879 when he retired. He died September 2, 1890. Soon after coming to Grand Rapids he formed a partnership with Benjamin G. Bridge who died in 1839. In 1853 he formed a partnership with John T. Holmes. Charles P. Calkins was not a Court lawyer, but he was a safe counsellor, and excelled as an office lawyer. He was honest, industrious, prudent and conservative. At different times he owned considerable property and land which after it passed from his hands became valuable. At one time he dealt in lumber and pine lands. In 1839 he married Miss Mary Hinsdale. They left several children who are now representative citizens of Grand Rapids. Charles P. Calkins was faithful to every duty of life and always held the respect of his fellows and affection of his friends.

**David Darwin Hughes**, late of Grand Rapids. Mr. Hughes was born at Camillus Onondaga county, New York, February 1, 1823. His father was Henry Hughes, a farmer, who in the war of 1812 participated in the battle of Oswego as captain of a militia company from his town. The ancestors of this branch of the Hughes family came to this country from Wales and intermarried with the Tuttle family of which the first American ancestor was William Tuttle, one of the founders of the Colony of New Haven, Connecticut. D. Darwin Hughes secured his academic education at Syracuse and Canandaigua. The family came to Michigan in 1840, and settled on a farm in Eaton county, where his mother died within a year. Mr. Hughes was thrown upon his own resources at the age of seventeen and in 1842 went to Charlotte, Mich., where he remained a year, and while there held the positions of deputy county clerk, deputy county surveyor and under sheriff. During his spare moments he began the study of law, having decided to make that profession his life work. In 1843 he entered the law office of M. S. Brackett, maintaining himself in the meantime by teaching a select school for young ladies. In 1844 he went to Marshall, where he entered the office of Gibbs and Bradley, a leading law firm of Southern Michigan. Here he remained until his admission to the Calhoun County Bar on examination in August, 1846. Before his admission he argued

motions in court and managed much of the business of the firm. Beginning in 1846 and continuing for several years Mr. Hughes was the editor of the *Democratic Expounder*, a weekly newspaper published in Marshall. In 1850 a broad field for practice opened before him.

Isaac E. Crary, the first member of Congress from Michigan, and Abner Pratt, as partners under the firm name of Pratt & Crary, had built up a large business in Marshall, and by the election of Mr. Pratt as Justice of the Supreme Court in 1850, the firm was dissolved and Mr. Hughes became Mr. Crary's partner. In 1854, Mr. Crary died and in 1855 Mr. Hughes formed a partnership with Justin D. Woolley, and from that time his business as a trial lawyer continued to increase until he was compelled to abandon his local practice and devote his time exclusively to the trial of important cases throughout the State, and thenceforth until the close of his life work he was perhaps the leading trial lawyer in Michigan, both in civil and criminal practice. In 1871 he was appointed General Counsel of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company, and the Continental Improvement Company. This placed in his hands the law business of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and of the Pennsylvania Company in Michigan, and to facilitate his work he moved to Grand Rapids, where the general offices of the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad Company were situated. Shortly before this he had formed a partnership with T. J. O'Brien, under the firm name of Hughes & O'Brien. Their business grew until it was necessary to add another member to the firm and Mr. M. J. Smiley was admitted to partnership, the firm becoming Hughes, O'Brien & Smiley, which was dissolved by the death of Mr. Hughes June 12, 1883. In politics he was a Democrat, but never figured as a politician, although he served as mayor of Marshall for two terms and was for years a member of the Board of Education. While his party was in the minority in the State he decided to run for office and became a candidate for Congress and afterwards for Justice of the Supreme Court, but was defeated with his party. Mr. Hughes was a student of science as well as law and was especially fond of the study of ornithology and an authority on the birds of Michigan, on which subjects he wrote several valuable articles which were published. He made a large collection of nests and eggs of Michigan birds

which he presented to the Kent Scientific Institute of Grand Rapids. During the latter years of his active practice, Mr. Hughes was almost uniformly successful in winning the great cases of which he had charge. Among the many notable cases he had, may be mentioned the Vanderpool murder case, in which the defendant, Geo. Vanderpool, of Manistee, was acquitted on the third trial. Mr. Hughes' argument on the second trial of the case at Kalamazoo, was considered the finest he ever made, and in the opinion of the bar it was a masterpiece. Although he excelled as a criminal lawyer he preferred civil cases. Among the notable cases of this kind in which he was chief counsel may be mentioned the Duncan will case at Marshall, and the Ward will case at Detroit, in both of which he was confronted by counsel as able as the State afforded, but in both cases he was successful and none gave him higher praise than those who were his opponents. In summing up we may quote from one of the most eminent jurists of Michigan, who in speaking of Mr. Hughes said: "I consider him the best all around lawyer Michigan has ever had." He had a wonderful legal mind, which embraced a thorough knowledge, not only of the reported cases, but the elements and principles upon which the science of law is based as well. In speaking he was easy, graceful and dignified. His language was incisive, his sentences complete and his conclusions logical. Mr. Hughes was married in October, 1846, to Miss Cynthia C. Jones, of Akron, Ohio, who is still living. They had five children, three sons and two daughters, all living.

**Alfred D. Rathbone** was one of the pioneer lawyers of Kent County. He was born in Aurora, New York, January 18th, 1806. He was educated, studied law and was admitted to the bar in his native state. At the age of thirty he came to Grand Rapids and opened a law office in 1836 and continued a resident of the town until his death, April 5th, 1856.

Mr. Rathbone was an earnest Democrat and always took an active interest in political and municipal affairs. He was postmaster of Kent, the old village name of Grand Rapids. In 1839 he was elected the first Prosecuting Attorney of Kent County and held the office for four years. With him were associated strong and able lawyers. At various times he had for partners, George Martin, John Ball, Thomas B. Church and James Miller. In the old days legitimate law business was not brisk in Kent County

but Mr. Rathbone was too active and ambitious to wait for business to come; he made business, he did not encourage litigation, for he was exceedingly careful in observing professional and business ethics, but he fostered and promoted business enterprises and dealt largely in real estate. He was alert, far seeing and methodical; as a result he became wealthy and left an estate which was so invested that his family has ever since been and now is numbered among the capitalists of Grand Rapids. His son, Alfred D. Rathbone, was born in Grand Rapids in 1842 and always lived in the city and died in 1902. His grandson, Alfred D. Rathbone, was born in 1868 and is now an active business man of the town.

**James Miller** was born in Winsted, Connecticut, February 11th, 1823. His father was an early settler of Gull Prairie, Kalamazoo County. James was educated in the schools of Michigan, studied law and settled in Grand Rapids. He was a practicing lawyer for many years but in later life he engaged in real estate transactions and other business. He died November 27, 1879, at which time he was President of the Board of Public Works.

**Simon M. Johnson** brought the first law books into Grand Rapids, which, when first used in Kent County, were not as dry as law books usually are. He carried them in his trunk which, on October 13, 1836, was lost in the Thornapple river by the capsizing of the stage wagon; the trunk was not recovered until the next day when its contents including the law books were opened to the world for inspection and absorption. Johnson, like all pioneer lawyers, did not stick close to his profession. In 1837 he engaged in Fire Insurance; in 1838 he was cashier of a wild cat bank which suspended business almost before it began operations; it borrowed nine hundred dollars in silver from Rix Robinson to make a show of assets to the State Bank Examiner and the cashier forgot to return the money before the bank went into liquidation. For his forgetfulness in the transaction Uncle Rix administered bodily chastisement to Simeon. No financial trust or failure of modern times has been as much discussed or furnished more excitement for Grand Rapids.

In 1841 Johnson started the Grand Rapids "Enquirer" which for years was the leading newspaper of Grand Rapids. He was a politician as well as lawyer and editor, and in 1852 he left Grand Rapids to enter the Government service at Washington.

**Lucius Patterson** was a prominent lawyer for many years in Grand Rapids. He was born at Constantia, Oswego Co., N. Y., November 29, 1814, where he was educated in the common schools and studied for the bar; he came to Michigan and settled in Otisco as a farmer in 1844; two years afterward he was admitted to the bar at Grand Rapids, and in 1847 moved into the village and commenced to build up a law practice. He lived on the West side and took a deep interest in West side business enterprises and social affairs. In 1850 he was elected Justice of the Peace; in 1853 he became a law partner of Stephen G. Champlin. He aided in building a new West side school house in 1854. In 1855 he was Captain of the West Side Military Company and in 1856 was elected alderman. Politically he was a staunch Democrat.

Mr. Patterson was not a learned lawyer, but he understood human nature and knew how to apply his legal knowledge in winning cases; he was a good friend and a bitter enemy, yet genial and generous. Devoted to his profession and his city, he was a successful lawyer and a good citizen. He died March 23, 1871.

**C. Osgood** was an early attorney of Kent County who settled in Grandville. He was appointed Prosecuting Attorney by Judge Ransom at the beginning of the first term of Circuit court held in the county. He owned the Grandville plat and hoped and worked to make it a great city, but his hopes were doomed to disappointment. He died at Grandville many years after the village was founded.

**Ralph Cole** was a lawyer, journalist and politician of the old days. In 1849 he was appointed Post Master of Grand Rapids. In 1850 he was City Attorney; in 1851 he was elected Mayor; for several years he wrote Whig editorials for the Grand Rapids "Eagle"; in 1854 he was a Supervisor in the city. On July 29, 1855, he died from smallpox.

**Sylvester Granger** came to Grand Rapids in 1836; in 1838 he helped build the old court house; in its days he wrote much for the Grand Rapids "Enquirer." On May 17, 1843, with John T. Holmes and Solomon L. Withey, he was admitted to the bar; the next year he was elected Justice of the Peace.

**E. E. Sargeant** was for many years a business partner of Solomon L. Withey and John Ball; he was village attorney in 1848, and in 1850 helped to draft the new city charter. In 1850

he was elected prosecuting attorney, and during his terms of office prosecuted the celebrated case of the People vs. Mills. Mills was charged with burning a granary; the trial took sixty days; Mr. Sargeant was assisted by Thomas Church, and John Van Arman of Marshall; the respondent was defended by Judge Goodman of Detroit and Samuel Clark of Kalamazoo. In addition to his legal business Sargeant also wrote editorials for the Grand Rapids "Enquirer." He died in 1858, aged thirty-seven years.

**Nathaniel A. Earle** was born in Allegan County, September 28, 1848. Soon after his parents moved to Van Buren County where he was educated in the common schools and in the high school at Paw Paw, from which he was graduated in 1870. For the next two years he taught the grammar school of Paw Paw; then for two years he was principal of the Paw Paw high school. During his leisure hours he read law.

In July, 1874, he came to Grand Rapids and entered the law offices of Hughes, O'Brien & Smiley. In September, 1875, he was admitted, and until 1879 he was a clerk in the offices of Hughes, O'Brien & Smiley.

He commenced practice in August, 1879, with Hon. John W. Stone, member of Congress, for a partner. January 1, 1880, the firm became Taggart, Stone & Earle. January 1, 1884, he became a partner with M. J. Smiley under the firm name of Smiley & Earle. Mr. Earle after two or three years of declining health died in July, 1891.

In the spring of 1880 Mr. Earle was elected a member of Common Council, and in the fall of the same year he was elected a member of the Legislature.

Mr. Earle had a brief but brilliant career at the bar. For several years before he commenced practice he was clerk in an office that had an extensive business and he had full charge of important business and legal matters so that he was well equipped when he began business for himself.

Mr. Earle's practice continued only for about twelve years, but during that time he took high rank as a successful attorney. He was a clever trial lawyer, a convincing advocate, and a safe counsellor. His early death was a loss to the bar of his adopted county.

**Niram A. Fletcher** was born at Oakland, Brant County, Ontario, February 13, 1850. Obtaining a common school education



he taught school for a time and then came to Grand Rapids and studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1873, and soon commenced practice for himself. He had for partners at different times Edward Taggart, S. S. Simons, G. A. Wolf and others. In 1883 the partnership of Fletcher & Wanty was formed which continued until Mr. Fletcher's death.

In many respects Mr. Fletcher was one of the most remarkable lawyers of the Kent County bar. He was not gifted with the brilliant qualities of an orator; he was not a man of commanding physical presence. He commenced practice with quite an ordinary preparation; he had neither wealth nor family influence to aid him in obtaining clients, and yet no man ever had a more rapid rise to a commanding position in his profession or retained it with more phenomenal success.

He was exceedingly industrious and energetic. In the early years of his practice he burned the midnight oil and was constantly delving with untiring energy into law problems, and later he supplemented his professional studies with studies of languages and literature; reading in history, arts and sciences, so that he became a learned man.

His mind was analytical and philosophical. He possessed great faculties of discriminating the essential from the non-essential elements of a case. He had renowned abilities in stating a case so that his position stood out in bold relief for the inspection of a court and jury, and he could always fortify his position with all the authorities that could be found in the books.

Mr. Fletcher commenced practice just as old methods in the law were giving way to new, when the executive qualities of the manager and the organizer were taking the place of the brilliant court lawyer and the eloquent advocate. He instinctively knew how to organize men and business interests to accomplish results. He was the business man's lawyer. In the organization and management of corporations he instinctively moved along the right lines. The consequence was that he quickly built up an extensive and lucrative practice which by his industry and genius increased year by year. Commencing his career in poverty and with no friends he ended it with wealth, position and influence. He won success on his merits, and his death was a loss to his city and state.

For many years he was a member of the Grand Rapids School

Board and did much to develop the public school system and maintain its efficiency. He was elected a member of the State Legislature in 1882 and served a term as member of the Board of Control of the Kalamazoo asylum for the insane.

Mr. Fletcher died August 15, 1899.

**Peter Voorheis** was born in Oakland County. He was graduated from the literary department of the Michigan University in 1870, and from the law department in 1872. He came at once to Grand Rapids and practiced law until his death, September 17, 1890.

Mr. Voorheis literally died in the business; he was trying a case in Justice Court when he fell dead from heart disease.

**James A. Rogers** was born in Northern Vermont June 30, 1834. When a small boy his people moved to Michigan, but when he was sixteen years old he returned to Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was graduated from the high school and learned pharmacy. In 1857 he was married at Pittsfield, Massachusetts. For the next two years he was in the drug business at Indianapolis, Indiana. Then he studied law for a time and came to Grand Rapids about 1860 and soon after was admitted to the bar. He was a partner with James Miller and afterwards was a member of the firm of Rogers, Clay and Sliter. He died May 25, 1895. He generally let his partners and associates try the law cases while he devoted himself to chancery practice.

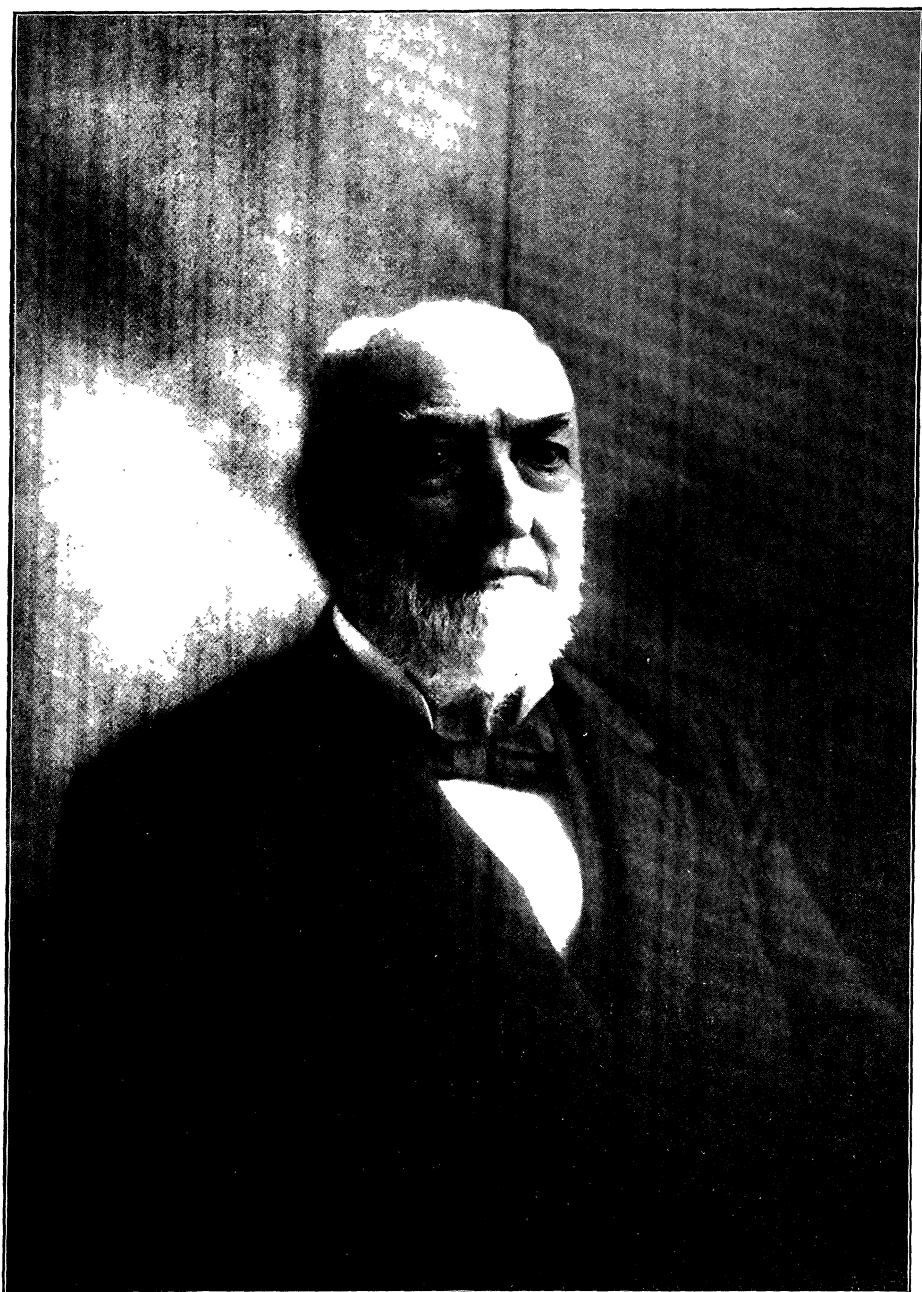
**Henry J. Felker** was born in Park Township, St. Joseph County, January 22, 1847. He was educated in the common schools of St. Joseph County and the Three Rivers high school. He was graduated from Albion college in 1872. Soon after he began to study law at Charlotte, Mich., in the office of Philip T. VanZile. He was admitted in April, 1874. He commenced practice in Marcellus, Cass County, but soon removed to Grand Rapids and for a time was clerk in the office of Godwin & Holmes. In 1876 he formed a partnership with A. J. Reeves which continued until 1883 when he formed a partnership with E. A. Maher which continued until 1890.

In 1894 Mr. Felker was appointed City Attorney and held the position for five years. Soon after leaving the City Attorney's office his health began to fail. He died November 26, 1902.

He was a member of the Grand Rapids School Board for fifteen years, for three of which he was its President.

**Stephen G. Champlin** was for nearly ten years a prominent lawyer of Grand Rapids. He was born at Kingston, Ulster County, N. Y., July 1, 1827. In boyhood he was an eager reader of history, and it is related of him that at twelve years of age he had well studied the histories of Rome, Greece, France, England, and the United States, and was as familiar with the story of Napoleon Bonaparte's campaigns as he was with his spelling book. He was educated at the common schools and at the academy at Rhinebeck, N. Y. At the age of fifteen years he began the study of medicine; at eighteen commenced practice as a physician, and soon acquired an extensive practice in Ulster County, N. Y. At twenty-one years of age he gave that up, studied law, passed a creditable examination in the Supreme Court at Albany, was admitted to the bar at twenty-two, and began the practice of law at Richmond, Ulster County, N. Y. In 1853 he came to Grand Rapids and entered into partnership with Lucius Patterson; then among the leading lawyers of Western Michigan. In 1856 he was elected Judge of the Recorder's Court of the city, and served two years. In 1858 he was elected Prosecuting Attorney of Kent County, and ably performed the duties of that office for one term. At the breaking out of the Rebellion he enlisted, and May 13, 1861, was commissioned Major of the Third Michigan Infantry. Soon after reaching the field the command of the regiment devolved upon him, and he was commissioned Colonel, October 28, 1861. He did gallant service, and had the respect and confidence of his men. At Fair Oaks, Va., he was severely wounded, but was in the field again at the siege of Yorktown and at the battle of Williamsburg. November 29, 1862, he was promoted to Brigadier General. But he never recovered from the effects of the wound received at Fair Oaks. He obtained leave of absence, came home to Grand Rapids, and sank to his death, January 24, 1864, one of the noblest of the Union Army, and lamented by all who knew him.

**John W. Champlin**, Grand Rapids. Judge Champlin is of English extraction, having descended from the family of Champ-lins that emigrated from England and settled in Rhode Island as early as 1638. His father was Jeffrey C. Champlin and his mother, Ellis Champlin, both of whom were of New England origin. He was born in Kingston, Ulster county, New York, February 17, 1831. He lived at home and worked on his father's



*John Champlin.*



farm until he was twenty-one years of age, a period in life which meant much more to a boy half a century ago than it does at present. It meant the beginning of independent action and self-reliance, and in most cases a severance of home ties. Judge Champlin's early education was received in the common schools and academy at Harpersfield, and the academies at Stamsford and Rheinbeck. After attaining his majority he pursued a course of civil engineering at Delaware Institute as a preparation of what he then conceived would be his life work. For about two years he engaged in the practical work of civil engineering in New York State. In 1854, he decided the profession of law would be more congenial and at once set about the business of qualifying himself for entering it. He came to Michigan and took up the study in the office of his elder brother, Stephen G., who had settled there as a practicing lawyer during the previous year. His mind was mature and his purpose deliberately formed so that his progress in the study of the text books was rapid as well as thorough. He grasped the principles readily and was easily able to comprehend the learned commentaries. In 1855 he was admitted to the bar after an examination before Judge George Martin, who was afterwards chief justice of the Supreme Court. Without delay he entered into the practice at Grand Rapids, which was continuous and constantly expanding for more than forty years, interrupted only by judicial service. Impressed with the consciousness of the truth that success in a profession depends upon application and industry, he lost no time. In 1856 he prepared a revision of the charter of Grand Rapids, which evidenced his ability and understanding of the law to an extent remarkable for one who had engaged in the practice less than a year. Having arrived at the determination of becoming a lawyer, he cherished no ulterior ambition. His loftiest aspiration found full scope in the profession in the desire to be a thorough lawyer and a good judge. He never held office that was not intimately relative to the law, either in its construction or administration, and far the larger portion of his time was occupied exclusively with private practice. He served a term as city recorder of Grand Rapids and a term as mayor of the city. In 1883 he was nominated by the Democratic party and elected justice of the Supreme Court, entering upon his judicial functions January 1,

1884. For eight years he was one of the hard-working, painstaking and clear-headed judges of the court. He never shirked a responsibility or slighted a judicial cause. The cases assigned to him for examination received his patient investigation of the points involved in the appeal and the authorities cited in briefs of counsel for appellant and appellee. He listened to oral arguments patiently and courteously, with a conscientious purpose to know all that might be learned of any case as the basis of an opinion which he was to prepare. He was not disposed to lighten his judicial labors by reliance upon his intuitions, nor did he seek by a hasty review of the proceedings in the trial court to find some technical error on which the case might be remanded so as to spare himself the more laborious duty of deciding the legal questions upon their merit. The integrity of his intellect rendered easy the singleness of purpose to arrive at the facts and the law which actuated him in the examination of every case, and the preparation of every opinion. His sole aim was to find the exact answer to the question, "what is the law of the case?" and having ascertained the answer to give it terse and perspicuous expression in his written opinion. It is fortunate for the State that he was called to service as a member of the highest court in the full meridian of a healthful, active life, when his mental vigor was sustained by a robust physical constitution. At the end of his term, Judge Champlin resumed private practice with the added vantage which always attends honorable and praiseworthy service on the appellate bench. He has been just as devoted to the interests of his clients since his retirement as he was devoted to the ends of justice as a member of the highest court. His practice is and always has been general, embracing every variety of cases, and especially cases involving large pecuniary and commercial interests. He has discharged many important trusts, particularly in the settlement of estates. It has been his custom to prepare cases thoroughly before going into court and then he is ready for any question that may be raised during the trial or any phase the battle may present. He readily summons all of his resources for an important legal contest and fights with the zeal of a gladiator until the victory is won or lost. He is generous in victory and magnanimous in defeat. With such abilities and such characteristics of mind, it is scarcely necessary to say that

his standing at the bar is high and that he is esteemed with affectionate regard by the members who have the honor of his personal acquaintance and intimate association. He was one of the lecturers in the Law Department of the University of Michigan, holding the place until October 1, 1896, when he resigned after a service of five years. In 1887, four years before his retirement from the Supreme Bench, the Board of Regents conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, a distinction well merited and a curtesy worthily bestowed. Judge Champlin in his intercourse with his fellow men and the performance of his daily duties, personal and professional, personifies the Justinian maxims to "Live honestly, hurt nobody, render to everyone his just due." He stands for morality, purity and christianity, and is a member of St. Mark's Episcopal church. He was married in 1856 to Miss Ellen More, of Polo, Ill., and has three children. He is a wise counsellor, a keen lawyer, a strong and successful advocate.

**G. Chase Godwin** was a native born Kent County lawyer who first saw the light in Wyoming township, April 18, 1840. He was educated in the common schools of the county and the city schools of Grand Rapids. In 1862 he began the study of law in the offices of Holmes & Champlin, and was admitted in 1864.

He soon after commenced business for himself and was a practicing lawyer of Grand Rapids until his death, February 26, 1891.

Mr. Godwin always took an interest in public affairs and was an ardent Democrat. He was Judge of the Recorder's Court from 1871 to 1875 and was City Attorney in 1879. In August, 1886, he was appointed United States District Attorney for the Western District of Michigan by President Cleveland and held the office until 1890.

Mr. Godwin was a trial lawyer who engaged in forensic combat. He was a persistent and hard fighter in Court trials who commanded the respect of his opponents and the admiration of his associates. He was a good judge of law and of men; none better understood the passions, prejudices and motives of men, and the art of obtaining evidence from witnesses and favorable verdicts from jurors. In his day he conducted many celebrated cases and was often pitted against distinguished adversaries.

**Arthur R. Rood** was born in Lapeer County, Michigan, September 27, 1858. He worked on a farm and attended district school



until thirteen years old, when he entered the Lapeer high school from which he was graduated in 1876. The same year he entered the literary department of the Michigan University, and was graduated from college in 1881. During his college course he spent one year in teaching. The year after graduation he was Superintendent of Schools at Saline, and at the same time studied law. He was admitted to the bar in the fall of 1882 and immediately entered the law department of the University from which he was graduated the next year.

He located in Grand Rapids and for something more than a year acted as clerk in various law offices and then commenced business for himself. He practiced alone until 1893 when he formed a partnership with Will E. Ryan which continued until 1897 when Mr. Ryan was succeeded by A. C. Hindman. Mr. Rood specialized in commercial law and practice and was unusually successful.

He took an interest in political and municipal affairs. In 1896 and 1897 he was chairman of the Republican City Committee. In 1898 he became a member of the State Central Committee. In the spring of 1898 he was nominated for Mayor, but was defeated. In 1902 he was again nominated and conditions were such that his election was assured, but the day he was nominated he was taken sick and three days before election he died. He was buried at Lapeer, April 7, 1902.

Mr. Rood was a member of many fraternal orders and secret societies. He was interested in art and traveled much both in America and Europe. He never was married.

**Leonard A. Ward** was born in Ada township, Kent County, May 13, 1854. He was educated in the common and village schools of Kent County and taught county schools for a few terms during which time he read law. He also studied in the office of Judge Parish and was admitted in 1878. Almost immediately he commenced practice for himself. Early in 1884 he formed a partnership with his brother Charles E. Ward under the firm name of Ward & Ward which continued until the death of Leonard A. Ward, September 8, 1892.

Leonard A. Ward was a Kent County product of which the bench and bar can well be proud. He was an earnest student and early built up a good practice. In the management and trial

of cases he developed genius of a high order. His early death was a loss to the community.

**George H. White** was born in Saratoga Springs, N. Y., July 17, 1836. He was educated in the schools of that famous resort of olden days, and studied law in the office of Chancellor Walworth. He came to Grand Rapids in 1856 where he resided until his death May 28, 1902.

In his early years he was in active and successive practice, but as the years went by he withdrew from the tumult of the courts to the privacy of his books. The prosaic age of the law did not appeal to him and he became a dreamer of the days that had gone.

**James Blair** was born on the shores of Lake George in Putnam County, N. Y., January 2, 1830. When twelve years of age his father's family moved to Michigan and stopped for a few months in Jackson County and then located in Walker township, Kent County, where James Blair lived on a farm until he was eighteen years old when he came to Grand Rapids which was his home until his death December 18, 1892. His education was obtained in the common schools.

After coming to Grand Rapids he was in business with Porter & Roberts, and C. C. Comstock for many years. In 1856 he was City Clerk. Soon after Colonel Gray returned from the war Mr. Blair commenced to study law with him and was admitted to the bar soon after the close of the war. He was employed by Colonel Gray until the latter left the city when Mr. Blair succeeded to his business.

In 1871 he formed a partnership with Lyman D. Norris under the firm name of Norris & Blair which afterwards became Norris, Blair & Kingsley, and then Blair, Stone & Kingsley, followed by Blair, Eggleston, Kingsley & Kleinhans, and then Blair, Kingsley & Kleinhans which continued for many years until Mr. Blair's death.

Mr. Blair was a member of the Grand Rapids Board of Education for eleven years and served as its President for four terms. He was appointed by Governor Begole a member of the Board of Trustees for the Industrial School for Boys and served one term. In 1885 he was appointed Postmaster of Grand Rapids by President Cleveland and held the office for five years.

Mr. Blair was a director in many industrial and financial in-

stitutions, and did much to promote the municipal and business growth of Grand Rapids.

At the bar he occupied a peculiar and remarkable position, one unparalleled in Kent County, if not in Michigan. Mr. Blair was a practicing lawyer for more than twenty years and during all that time was a member of a leading law firm of the city, and yet he never tried a case, more than that, he never saw a case tried. For years at a time he never appeared in the court room and when he did appear it was only for a brief period to assist his partners in some point or phase of a case of which he had particular knowledge. Yet he was always an active force in the business of his firm. He thoroughly knew the business end of law suits and had an unerring judgment in the management of cases and office work. His business experience in early life coupled with his law studies and quick intuition of men and situations made him a wise counsellor and a good business man's lawyer.

**George Gray** was born in the County of Tyrone, Ireland, June 20, 1824. In early life he was a civil engineer and took high rank in his chosen profession; and received a collegiate education. He came to Grand Rapids in 1855. December 22, 1856, he was admitted to the bar of Kent County before Judge Martin, and at once became a partner of Solomon L. Withey, which partnership continued until 1862. He entered the military service and became Colonel of the Sixth Michigan Cavalry. He saw active service and won distinction in the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863. After the war he resumed the practice of his profession at Grand Rapids and continued until 1870 when he entered the service of the Northern Pacific Railroad and removed to New York City. He afterwards became General Counsel for the Company. He died several years ago.

Colonel Gray was a thorough lawyer who achieved success by his genius and ability coupled with great industry. He knew the principles of law and he knew men and he knew the art of convincing men whether they sat in the jury box or on the bench.

Having won distinction in a profession which required industry and precision before he studied law and having mingled much with the world and having an extensive acquaintanceship with men of affairs, Colonel Gray did not have to wait for clients after he commenced practice and was not obliged to drum up business. From the start business came to him. His talents at the outset

won him a commanding position. Only the early years of his professional career were spent in Michigan, yet Colonel Gray undoubtedly was one of the greatest lawyers our city ever produced.

**William H. Haggerty** was born in Clay Banks, Muskegon County—now Oceana County—Michigan, March 19, 1854. He worked on the farm and attended and taught county schools until he reached his majority when he entered and worked his way through Hillsdale College from which he was graduated in 1881. He then taught school in academies of New York and high schools of Oceana County until 1885, during which time he read law. In 1885 he entered the law department of the State University and was graduated in 1886, when he at once located in Grand Rapids where he lived and practiced law until his death, March 30, 1904.

In 1888 he formed a partnership with Dwight Goss which continued until 1892. In 1891 he was elected Judge of the Police Court to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Judge Holmes. At the close of his term he was re-elected. In 1896 he resumed private practice. In 1900 he was again elected Judge of the Police Court and held the office at the time of his death.

Judge Haggerty was an ideal Police Court Judge. Intuitively he seemed to know when to be severe and when to be lenient. He took a personal interest in all juvenile offenders, and looked well to the needs of the poor and the unfortunate.

Judge Haggerty was a Christian gentleman and a conscientious judge whose sudden death in the midst of his official duties was a loss to the bench and bar of Kent County.

**Christopher W. Leffingwell** was born in Aubany, New York, September 9th, 1808. In his early manhood he taught school and studied law in Ohio. Having been admitted to the bar he came to Michigan in 1836 and settled in DeWitt, Clinton County. In 1854 he came to Grand Rapids and practiced law until the days of the Civil War. At one time he was a partner of Lucius Patterson. In 1856 he was chosen City Attorney. In 1861 he was elected Justice of the Peace. Although advanced in years before the Civil War he took an interest in military affairs of the local militia, and after the war was well under way, he enlisted and saw active service. After the close of the war he remained in the government service looking after government property in

the Southern States. In 1866 he returned to Grand Rapids and settled on a farm in Grand Rapids township, where he remained until 1871, when he removed to Illinois and lived at Rock Island and Hovey until his death, July 17th, 1871.

#### **The United States Court.**

The Western District of Michigan was organized by act of Congress December 24, 1863. At present it is divided into two divisions, the Northern, with headquarters at Marquette, and the Southern, with headquarters at Grand Rapids.

Since the Court was organized the following have been the District Judges: Solomon L. Withey, 1863-86; Henry F. Severns, 1886-1900; George P. Wanty, 1900-1906.

The following have been Clerks of the United States Circuit Court: Lewis Porter, 1863-1865; Isaac H. Parrish, 1865-1875; Chester B. Hinsdill, 1875-1878; Henry M. Hinsdill, 1878-1887; Charles L. Fitch, 1887—.

#### **Clerks of the District Court.**

Chester B. Hinsdill, 1878-1886; John McQuewan, 1886-1901; Charles J. Potter, 1901—.

#### **U. S. District Attorneys.**

Frederick O. Rogers, 1863-1865; A. D. Griswold, 1865-1866; A. T. McReynolds, 1866-1867; A. D. Griswold, 1867-1869; John H. Standish, 1869-1877; Marsden C. Burch, 1877-1882; John W. Stone, 1882-1886; G. Chase Godwin, 1886-1890; Lewis G. Palmer, 1890-1894; John Power, 1894-1898; George G. Covell, 1898—.

#### **U. S. Marshals.**

Osmond Tower, 1863-1866; Wm. B. Thomas, 1866-1867; James Henry, 1867-1873; John Parker, 1873-1881; James Monroe, 1881-1886; David R. Waters, 1886-1890; James R. Clark, 1890-1894; Charles R. Pratt, 1894-1898; A. O. Wheeler, 1898-1903; Frank W. Wait, 1893—.

#### **Circuit Courts.**

Michigan is divided into thirty-eight Judicial Circuits, of which Kent county forms the seventeenth. Four terms of court are held

in the Kent Circuit annually, as follows: March, May, September and December, which often run into one another, so that the court is practically always in session. The bulk of important cases is here disposed of; and most decisions which in the reports of opinions of the Supreme Court Judges become law precedent for the determination of future causes are the final disposition of cases removed from different circuits.

The historical development of this important branch of the judicial system of Michigan is briefly as follows: The Circuit Courts were first instituted by name in 1825, and presided over by Judges of the Supreme Court, who for some years performed these duties in a peripatetic manner, going from circuit to circuit. The inconvenience arising therefrom, and the rapid growth of settled communities, led to radical changes. In 1833 "The Circuit Court of the Territory of Michigan" was established, presided over by one Circuit Judge for the entire circuit, and two Associate Judges for each county; the former appointed for four years; the latter, for three. The Circuit Courts before in existence were then called Superior Circuit Courts, and were empowered to issue writs of error to the Circuit Courts.

In 1836, the State was divided into three Judicial Circuits, and Judges of the Supreme Court performed the duties of Circuit Judges. The Constitution of 1850 made the office of Circuit Judge elective, and the term of office six years. Each circuit now has its own elected Judge (Wayne, Saginaw, St. Clair, and Kent, because of the press of business, having more than one each); and the Supreme Court Judges no longer sit therein, save as they may have cases removed thence for their opinion sitting as a Supreme Court.

The Circuit jurisdiction is substantially as follows: Within their respective counties, Circuit Courts exercise original and exclusive jurisdiction over all civil actions and remedies, and criminal prosecutions in the name of people of the State, except where exclusive or concurrent jurisdiction is given to other courts, and all powers usually possessed by courts of record at common law and in equity; also general appellate jurisdiction over Justices' and Probate Courts, with powers to regulate practice therein, and carry out the provisions of its judgments and decrees. Cases are removed thence to the Supreme Court, on

writs of error, appeals, or cases made and agreed upon between the parties.

Issues of law are tried by the Court; so too are issues of fact, unless a jury be demanded, in which case they, under the charge of the Court, are judges of the fact. Causes may be transferred from one circuit to another for several specified reasons; for instance, local prejudice or relation of Judge to parties in suit. A stenographer is provided to keep an accurate report of the proceedings. The County Clerk is ex officio Clerk of the Circuit Court.

From the time court proceedings were first had in Kent County up to the time of its county organization, it was attached to Kalamazoo County for judicial purposes; but after 1836 Kent County courts have had more of a "local habitation and a name."

The Circuit Court has convened at various places in our city. First it met in the county buildings on what is now Fulton Street Park; when they were destroyed, it next met in the Rev. Dr. Penney's church on West Bridge street; subsequently, in the Collins Block on Canal street; then in the old block standing on the lot now occupied by the Old National Bank; then the Lepig Block; afterward the Phoenix Block on Lyon street; then, the Circuit Court Block, so called (owned by Lyman D. Norris, on Lyon street); whence it departed for a more stable abiding place in the Court House, corner of Ottawa street and Crescent avenue.

Kent County was organized March 24, 1836, and soon thereafter judicial functions began within her own limits. Unfortunately, owing to a serious fire in 1860, by which most of the files and records of the county were irrevocably lost, it is next to impossible to obtain full, accurate data of those early courts; the written authorities are wanting, and almost all the old settlers qualified to verify by recollection the events of those early times, have passed away. However, from traditions, newspaper reports, and other sources of information, a fairly complete history of the early period has been preserved.

From 1836 to 1852 the following Judges visited and held court on the Circuit Bench of Grand Rapids, being entitled thereto ex officio from their position on the Supreme Bench: Epaphroditus Ransom, Charles W. Whipple, Edward Mundy and George Martin. These, in the order named, during that period dis-

charged the duties of the court of Kent; and their works were supplemented by side or Associate Judges, two chosen within the county for a term of three years. The following is such list as far and truly as can be ascertained: 1837-41, John Almy and Arnot Davis; 1841-44, Ezekiel W. Davis and Philander Tracy; 1844-47, Rix Robinson and Lewis Reed (John Almy was elected, but failed to qualify; Reed took his place).

Beginning in 1852, the date fixed by the Constitution of 1850, the elected Circuit Judges have been as follows: 1852, George Martin; 1858, Louis S. Lovell (two terms); 1870, Birney Hoyt (two terms); 1882, Robert M. Montgomery; 1888, William E. Grove, who was Judge until January 1, 1900.

By an act of the Legislature of 1889, a second Circuit Judge was provided for the county, whereby Judge Marsden C. Burch was appointed to hold the office until December 31, 1893. In the November election, 1890, Allen C. Adsit was a candidate on the Democratic ticket for the office. It was claimed by the Democrats that the appointment of Judge Burch was invalid after a general election, while it was claimed by the Republicans that the appointment was legal, and no nomination was made. February 5, 1891, it was decided by the Supreme Court that the Democratic contention was right. Judge Burch at once abdicated the office and Judge Adsit took his place, Judge Adsit held the office until January 1, 1900. At the spring election of 1899 Alfred Wolcott and Willis B. Perkins were elected Circuit Judges. They were re-elected in 1905, and are now (1906) the Circuit Judges for Kent County.

#### **Prosecuting Attorneys for Kent County.**

1851-52, Edward E. Sargeant; 1853-56, John T. Holmes; 1857-58, E. S. Eggleston; 1859-60, Stephen G. Champlin; 1861-62, Thaddeus Foote; 1863-65, E. G. D. Holden; 1866-68, Byron D. Ball; 1869-72, Andrew J. Reeves; 1873-76, E. A. Burlingame; 1877-78, Stephen H. Ballard; 1879-80, Frank F. Kutts; 1881-82, Fred A. Maynard; 1883-86, Isaac M. Turner; 1887-88, Samuel D. Clay; 1889-90, William J. Stuart; 1891-92, William F. McKnight; 1893-96, Alfred Wolcott; 1897-1900, Frank A. Rodgers; 1901-06, William B. Brown.



**Sheriffs.**

The following have been Sheriffs of Kent County: Ezra Reed, 1837-38; Aaron Russell, 1839-40; Harry Eaton, 1841-42; Solomon Withey, 1843-44; C. P. Babcock, 1845-46; De Witt Shoemaker, 1847-48; Harvey K. Rose, 1849-50; Leonard Snyder, 1851-54; Daniel S. T. Weller, 1855-56; Anson N. Norton, 1857-60; Sluman S. Bailey, 1861-64; William Thornton, 1865-66; Sluman S. Bailey, 1867-68; Jesse F. Wyckoff, 1869-72; Isaac Haynes, 1873-76; Free-ling W. Peck, 1877-80; Isaac F. Lamoreaux, 1881-82; Lyman T. Kinney, 1883-86; Loomis K. Bishop, 1887-90; John McQueen, 1891-92; Isaac H. Lamoreaux, 1893-94; Nathaniel Rice, 1895; Irving Woodworth (acting), 1895-96; Irving Woodworth, 1897-1900; Leman H. Chapman, 1901-04; Albert A. Carroll, 1905-06.

Nathaniel Rice died soon after commencing his term in 1895, and for the remainder of the term Irving Woodworth was acting Sheriff.

**County Clerks.**

The following have been County Clerks of Kent County from its organization: Stephen Wilson, 1837-38; Charles H. Taylor, 1839-46; Samuel R. Sanford, 1847-48; Reuben H. Smith, 1849-54; Peter R. L. Peirce, 1855-68; Daniel McNaughton, 1869-72; Hobart H. Chipman, 1873-76; Wesley W. Hyde, 1876; Frederick S. Clark, 1877-82; Orland H. Godwin, 1883-85; Cornelius L. Harvey, 1885-92; Franklin D. Eddy, 1893-96; William J. Thomas, 1897-1900; Connor H. Smith, 1901-06.

Hobart H. Chipman died in office in 1876, and Wesley W. Hyde was appointed to complete the term. Orland H. Godwin died in office in 1884, and Cornelius L. Harvey was appointed to complete the term.

**Registers of Deeds.**

Jacob Barns, 1837-38; E. W. Barns, 1842, to fill vacancy; Benjamin Smith, 1843-44; George H. White, 1845-46; John M. Fox, 1847-52; Fred W. Worden, 1853-56; Leonidas S. Seranton, 1857-60; John R. Stewart, 1861-66; William G. Beckwith, 1867-72; Simeon Hunt, 1873-76; Loomis K. Bishop, 1877-82; Henry F. McCormick, 1883-88; Nathaniel Rice, 1889-90; Adolphus L. Skinner, 1891-92; John T. Gould, 1893-96; Scott Griswold, 1897-1900; Frank J. Cook, 1901-06.

**County Treasurers.**

Hiram Hinsdill, 1837-38; Aaron Dikeman, 1839-43; Sidney Smith, 1843-44; James Davis, 1845-48; Solomon O. Kingsbury, 1849-52; Nelson Robinson, 1853-56; Daniel C. McVean, 1857-58; Thompson I. Daniels, 1859-66; George Young, Jr., 1867-72; Henry Bremer, 1873-76; John A. S. Verdier, 1877-82; Andrew J. Stebbins, 1883-86; Charles D. Stebbins, 1887-88; Sherman T. Colson, 1889-90; Charles D. Stebbins, 1891-94; Sherman T. Colson, 1895-96; Henry B. Proctor, 1897-1900; Wm. F. Woodworth, 1901-04; Ernest A. Crozier, 1905—.

**The Superior Court.**

The Superior Court of Grand Rapids was established by an act of the Legislature of 1875; its first term commencing the first Tuesday in June of that year. It is a court of record, having a seal, and presided over by an elective Judge, whose original term of office is six years. His salary is \$2,500, but after May, 1906, it will be \$3,500. This Court has commodious quarters in the City Hall, where four terms of court are held annually, beginning in March, May, September and December of each year. The running expenses are provided for by the Common Council.

The jurisdiction of the Superior Court is as follows: Original jurisdiction, concurrent with the Circuit Court for the County of Kent, in transitory actions where the claim is over \$100, in which both parties reside in the city of Grand Rapids, or when either party is a resident of the city and service of the original process shall be had therein (likewise where there are more than one party on either side, and one of them receives service as aforesaid); actions of ejectment, trespass and foreclosure concerning lands within the city; attachments against non-residents, where the property attached is within the corporate limits; and actions of equity where either of the parties, or the property involved, is within the city. Exclusive jurisdiction of all civil actions at law and in equity, brought by or against the Board of Education of the city, or by or against the city or any of its officers; exclusive appellate jurisdiction, where appeals may be made, of all cases originally commenced and prosecuted in the Police Court of Grand Rapids, where final judgment shall be entered therein,

in any cases arising out of the breach of any provision of the charter or ordinances of the city; and to issue writs of certiorari in such cases when lawful to be done. Also criminal jurisdiction for crimes committed under laws of the State within the city limits, not exclusively cognizable by the Police Court or the Justices of the Peace of the city. Jurisdiction of the former Recorder's Court of the city was formally transferred to and vested in this court by the act of 1875 above noted; also all necessary powers to make the other enumerated powers and its jurisdiction complete.

The following are the Judges past and present: John T. Holmes, 1875-81; Isaac H. Parrish, 1881-87; Edwin A. Burlingame, 1887-99; Richard L. Newnham, 1899-1904; William J. Stuart, 1905.

By the original act, the County Clerk was made ex-officio clerk of this Court, which provision continued for three years only; during which time the following Clerks were in office: Hobart H. Chipman, 1875; Wesley W. Hyde, 1876; Fred S. Clock, 1877-78. Charles P. Rathbun, however, as deputy, performed most of the duties during this time. Since the office became elective the following have been the Clerks: Everett D. Comstock, 1878-80; Charles P. Rathbun, 1880-88; Andrew Fyfe, 1888-93; William H. Leckie, 1893-94; Fred J. Adams, 1894-96; Harry L. Creswell, 1896-1900; George D. Bostock, 1900-02; George G. Lamb, 1902-06; George P. Tilma, 1906.

#### **The Probate Court.**

By a Territorial act of 1805, the courts of the several districts, or any Judge of the Territory, or the Clerk of the District Court, were authorized to take the proof of wills, and grant letters testamentary and of administration. In 1811 provision was made for the appointment in each district of a Register, with essentially the same powers. Finally, in 1818, a Court of Probate was established in each county, the Judge, some "able and learned person," to be appointed by the Governor, from which appeals lay to the Supreme Court. These last continued in operation until the admission of Michigan into the Union.

The Revised Statutes of 1838 provided for the election of Probate Judges for a term of four years, which continues to be the term of office. Our probate law and procedure follows closely

the lead of Massachusetts. The Probate Courts are courts of record with seals, having within their sphere the general powers of courts of record. Their jurisdiction covers the very important field of estates of deceased persons, infants, and indigent and mentally incompetent persons; with powers to enforce the attendance of witnesses and the execution of all orders and decrees regularly made. Appeals lie to the Circuit Court of the county, which, in its chancery capacity, has a general concurrent jurisdiction. Probate Judges are authorized by law to appoint assistants, known as Registers of Probate.

The Probate Court of Kent County was organized in 1836. For many years the volume of business was small; the first year there were two cases; the second year one case, and the third year three cases. Last year there were 852.

The first business was on August 1, 1836, when an order was entered arranging October 19 for a hearing in appointing an administrator in the estate of Rowland W. Sizor. In the report of that estate it appears that the lot on which Powers' Opera House now stands sold for \$20.00. The Probate Judges of Kent County are as follows:

#### **Judges of Probate.**

Jefferson Morrison, August 1, 1836, to December 31, 1844; James A. Davis, January 1, 1845, to December 31, 1848; Solomon L. Withey, January 1, 1849, to December 31, 1852; Robert P. Sinclair, January 1, 1853, to December 31, 1856; William A. Robinson, January 1, 1857, to December 31, 1864; Benjamin A. Harlan, January 1, 1865, to December 31, 1876; Cyrus E. Perkins, January 1, 1877, to December 31, 1884; Lyman D. Follett, January 1, 1885, to May 30, 1887; Cyrus E. Perkins, June 7, 1887, to December 31, 1896; Harry D. Jewell, January 1, 1897, to —.

#### **Registers of Probate.**

Moses Taggart, January 2, 1871, to April 1, 1872; Cyrus E. Perkins, April 1, 1872, to December 31, 1876; John R. Smith, January 2, 1877, to January 2, 1879; William A. Russell, January 2, 1879, to May 1, 1879; Charles Schuster, May 1, 1879, to December 31, 1879; Adolph B. Mason, January 5, 1880, to December 31, 1884; Frank W. Hine, January 1, 1885, to August 12,

1889; Adolph B. Mason, August 12, 1889, to January 1, 1893; Harry D. Jewell, January 1, 1893, to January 1, 1897. Alvin E. Ewing, January 1, 1897, to —.

The business of no court in the city is increasing as is that of the Probate Court. The following tables show the increase of recent years:

**Comparative Report of Business of the Probate Court of Kent County During the Years 1902 and 1905.**

**New Cases.**

The new cases brought before the Court during the years 1902 and 1905 were as follows:

	1902.	1905.
Proceedings for probate of wills.....	183	151
Proceedings for probate of foreign wills.....	3	8
Proceedings for administration of intestate estates .....	188	250
Proceedings for guardianship of minors.....	158	172
Proceedings for guardianship of mentally incompetents .....	52	70
Proceedings for determination of heirs.....	47	44
Proceedings for admission of insane to asylum..	98	100
Proceedings for adoption of children.....	41	51
Proceedings for disposition of ill-treated children	10	11
Proceedings for condemnation, drains, etc.....	...	14
	---	---
Total new proceedings.....	780	871
Duplicated, on account of two proceedings relative to one case.....	17	19
	---	---
Net number new cases added to calendar of the court .....	763	852

**Summary of Papers Handled.**

	1902.	1905.
Total petitions filed, indexed and entered in calendar .....	1,626	1,865
Total wills, bonds, inventories, reports, etc., filed, recorded, compared and entered in calendar...	1,333	1,429
Total reports, proofs, certificates, accounts, etc., filed and entered in calendar, but not recorded.	6,158	7,009
Total number orders made, recorded, compared and entered .....	4,640	5,230

## HISTORY OF GRAND RAPIDS.

751

Total warrants, letters of appointment, commissions, etc., issued, recorded, compared and entered in calendar.....	1,773	2,229
Total subpoenas and certificates of attendance of witnesses issued .....	360	270
Total petitions, orders, wills, reports, bonds, etc., copied, compared, certified to, entered in day book and ledger, and fees collected for and paid to County Treasurer.....	2,341	2,310
Total certificates of exemplification issued.....	1,561	1,694
Statements and receipts for fees issued.....	1,536	1,617
Total notices to executors, administrators and guardians to render accounts issued.....	1,150	1,080
Total notices to executors, administrators and guardians to renew bonds issued.....	...	480
Total principal papers handled.....	22,473	25,213

The above figures do not include receipts, claims, certificates of allowances and other small papers, an accurate estimate of which can not be made. They are, in most instances, based on actual count. In a few instances, conservative estimates, based on the records and files of the Court, have been made.

### Fees Collected.

Total amount of fees collected and paid to the County Treasurer:

During the year 1902.....	\$ 998.96
During the year 1905.....	21,013.00

### Inheritance Taxes.

Total amount of State inheritance taxes determined:

During the year 1902.....	\$12,691.00
During the year 1905.....	21,013.00

### The Police Court.

By an act of the State Legislature in 1873 provision was made for a city Police Court, to be presided over by a Police Justice, to be elected for a term of four years; said court has sole and exclusive jurisdiction of all offenses against the city charter or by-laws and ordinances of the Common Council; also jurisdiction for offenses against the general laws of the State within the limits of

the city. The Police Justice must be an attorney entitled to practice in all the courts of the State; his salary is \$1,800 per annum, is paid out of the city treasury. The original act has been variously amended and modified by successive Legislatures. It is the duty of the county Prosecuting Attorney, or his representative, to attend and prosecute all State criminal cases therein; and of the City Attorney, or his representative, to attend and prosecute all violations of the charter, by-laws or ordinances.

The following have been Judges of the Police Court: 1874, James E. McBride; 1878, John M. Harris; 1882, John T. Holmes; 1891, William H. Haggerty; 1896, Emanuel J. Doyle; 1900, William H. Haggerty; 1904, Frank A. Hess.

The following have been Clerks of the Police Court: 1878, David Sinclair; 1880, Andrew Coffinberry; 1882, Cornelius L. Harvey; 1884, Alfred B. Tozer; 1890, Edward L. Pelton; 1892, W. S. Stevens; 1894, H. W. Bedell; 1895, Albert A. Carroll; 1900, John H. Toren; 1902, Dick De Bruyn; 1906, Nicholas Kik.

#### **The Justice Courts.**

Grand Rapids has a special Justice Act by which there are two justices of the peace who do the Justice Court business of the city and have exclusive jurisdiction in Justice Court causes where both parties are residents of the city and where the original cause of action existed in favor of a resident of the city. The justices have concurrent jurisdiction with Circuit Courts in certain cases. The justices have a clerk and in many respects the courts are conducted as is a court of record. These courts were created by Act of the Legislature in 1893.

Since the Courts were created the following have been justices of the peace and clerks of the court: 1894, John W. Holcomb, Wm. O. Westfall; 1895, John W. Holcomb, Charles A. Watt; clerk, Wellington C. Robertson; 1896, Charles A. Watt, H. D. Cowan; clerk, Wellington C. Robertson; 1897, Charles A. Watt; 1898, H. D. Cowan; clerk, Ernest Bullen; 1899, Charles A. Watt; 1900, H. D. Cowan; 1901-1902, clerk, Ralph R. Anderson; 1903, Harry D. Cowan, John W. Holcomb; clerk, James Schriver; 1904, John W. Holcomb; 1905, Orley C. Granger; 1906, clerk, James Schriver.

The business of the Courts in the city is best shown by the number of cases started for a given period. During the year 1905 the



*Charles M. Wilson*





following proceedings were commenced in the several Courts. In the Circuit Court there were commenced 450 Chancery causes, 286 Law cases, and 38 Criminal cases; in the Superior Court there were commenced 56 Chancery causes, 34 Law cases, and 99 Criminal cases; in the City Justice Court there were 2,223 Civic cases, and 115 Criminal cases. Of the civil cases 1,478 were settled out of court; in the Police Court there were 3,196 cases; in the Probate Court there were 852 cases, making a total of 3,901 civil proceedings and 3,448 criminal proceedings begun in Grand Rapids in 1905, or an average of over 23 cases commenced each working day.

**Moses Taggart**, was born at Wilson, Niagara county, N. Y., February 27, 1843. On both sides Mr. Taggart comes from New England ancestry. His early life was spent on a farm, subsequently entering, as a student, the office of his uncle, the late Judge Taggart, of Batavia, formerly judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals of New York; graduated from the law department of the Michigan University in 1867 and was admitted to the bar of New York at Buffalo in December of the same year; came to Michigan in January, 1869, settling first in Cedar Springs, later removing to Grand Rapids and went into partnership with A. B. Harlan, then judge of probate; soon after formed a new business connection with Eugene E. Allen, the firm being Taggart & Allen; in 1875 Mr. L. W. Wolcott entered the firm, and later C. V. Ganson took the place of Mr. Allen, the latter resigning on account of ill health, and the firm became Taggart, Wolcott & Ganson, until 1898; since then his son, Ganson Taggart has been his partner. In the fall of 1884 Mr. Taggart was elected to the office of Attorney-General of the state by the Republican party; was re-elected in 1886 and retired at the end of his second term. In December, 1901, he was appointed City Attorney and has since that date held the office.

**Charles Moseman Wilson** was born in Ionia, Michigan, October 10, 1858. His parents were Henry J. Wilson and Helen (Moseman) Wilson. He comes from revolutionary stock for he is a direct descendant of Captain Moseman of the Second Regiment, Westchester County Militia of New York.

He was educated in the public schools of Ionia until he was seventeen years old, when he entered the Literary Department of the University of Michigan, and was graduated in 1880. He

then studied law in the law offices of Blanchard, Bell & Cagwin at Ionia for two years and was admitted in 1882. He then entered the Law department of his alma mater, from which he was graduated in 1883. He then came to Grand Rapids and was a clerk in the law offices of Champlin & More and John E. More until January 1, 1886, when the law firm of More & Wilson was formed, which continued until November 1, 1900, when Mr. Wilson became a member of the firm of Taggart, Denison & Wilson.

In June, 1891, Mr. Wilson was married to Jennie W. Dunning of Auburn, New York, by whom he had two children, Henry D. and Helen M. Mrs. Wilson died October 22, 1897. On October 14, 1899, Mr. Wilson married Angeline Aspinwall of Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Wilson has always affiliated with the Democratic party.

He is a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. In May, 1905, he was appointed a member of the Board of Public Works of Grand Rapids.

The home of Mr. Wilson is on South College avenue.

Mr. Wilson is a trustworthy, methodical attorney who has often been selected by the courts and his brother attorneys as trustee in matters that are complex in their legal phases and intricate in their business aspects.

**Laurens W. Wolcott** was born in the state of New York, February 8th, 1843. He came from the historic Wolcott family of Connecticut. He received his early education in the schools of New York, and finished preparation for college in a school at Batavia, Illinois.

The Civil War coming on his studies were interrupted by the call to arms. On September 10th, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company D. 52d Regiment of Illinois Infantry Volunteers, and served in the army of the Tennessee, from its first organization for the Fort Donelson campaign, until the close of the war, having by successive promotions received the grade of First Lieutenant. He participated in most of the important battles of the Army of the Tennessee. After the capture of Fort Donelson, besides numerous less noted engagements, he took part in the battle of Shiloh, the siege of Corinth, the battle of Corinth, the Hundred Days battles of the Atlanta campaign, the march with Sherman to the sea, and through the Carolinas, ending in Johnston's sur-



*Laureus W. Holcott*



render, and the Grand Review at Washington; after which he was stationed in Kentucky, until mustered out, with his regiment in July, 1865. After the war he studied law. In 1868 and 1869 he attended law lectures at the University of Michigan. In 1869 he was admitted to the bar and became a resident of Grand Rapids which has since been his home. His first practice was in the office of Byron D. Ball. In 1872 he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner of Kent County and re-elected in 1874. He served several years on the Board of Education and was at one time its President. He has also been Secretary of the bar association. In 1875 he became a member of the firm of Taggart & Wolcott which continued for more than 20 years. In 1897 he formed a partnership with Judge Cyrus E. Perkins, which still continues under the firm name of Wolcott & Perkins.

For many years he was an active practitioner in the courts of Michigan and other states. He was an industrious student and a successful advocate. Of recent years he has become more of a counsellor and manager of business and corporate interests. In March 1873 he was married to Miss Lucy Gallup by whom he has two daughters, Ellen Capron, now Mrs. William D. Cheney, and Miss Kate W. Wolcott, who lives with her parents. The Wolcott family live at 445 East Fulton street, corner of College avenue. He is a member of Park Street Congregational church, a Knight Templar, a life-long Republican, a Son of the Revolution, and a member of Michigan Commandery of the Loyal Legion.

**Ganson Taggart**, son of Moses Taggart, was born in Grand Rapids in 1873; after finishing the common and high schools, graduated from the law department of Ann Arbor University in 1896, being admitted to the bar the previous year. He then engaged in practice with his father in Grand Rapids where he still remains.

**George W. Thompson**, son of Warren and Electa Thompson, was born at Florida, now Jefferson, Hillsdale county, Michigan, in 1844; received his education in common schools and at Oberlin college; commenced studying law in the office of L. N. Keating, at Muskegon, completing his course at Hillsdale under the direction of Col. March, when he was admitted to the bar in 1869. Commenced practice at Hillsdale, and from 1873 to 1874, was connected with the office of William S. Edwards in Detroit with whom he opened an office also in Grand Rapids. From 1876 to

1878 he was in partnership with Judge W. E. Grove, and with S. A. Kennedy until 1884. Since that time he has been in office with F. E. Temple, style of the firm is Thompson & Temple.

Mr. Thompson was elected to the Legislature in 1882 and in 1904 alderman of the Fourth ward.

**Judge Allen C. Adsit** was born at Rutland, Jefferson county, N. Y., Feb. 20, 1837. His father, Stephen Adsit, and his mother, Polly Smiley Adsit, were also natives of New York. Allen C. was educated at the district school near his father's farm at Fairfield Seminary and at Jefferson County institute at Watertown, N. Y., taking an academic course, and during the winters of 1857-8-9 was employed at teaching in the district schools. The remaining portion of the year was spent in studying law at Watertown. He was admitted to the bar by the Supreme Court held at Syracuse, October 6, 1859, and settled at Adams, in his native state, to engage in practice in 1860. In the early part of 1866 he removed to Michigan and settled at Spring Lake, Ottawa county, where he engaged in mercantile pursuits. For six years he was supervisor of the township; in 1871 he was president of the village board; in 1871 and '72 he represented his district in the legislature and in the meantime had renewed his interest in the law and resumed practice. In 1874 he was elected prosecuting attorney for Ottawa county. In 1886 he was appointed assistant United States attorney for the western district of Michigan, and in 1887 was candidate of his party for circuit judge. By appointment of the mayor in 1890, he served a term as member of the board of public works. Later in the same year he was elected for the residue of the judicial term of Marsden C. Burch, judge of the seventeenth circuit. After considerable argument as to the legality of this election, he assumed the office Feb. 5, 1891, and his judicial record was approved by re-election in 1893 for the full term of six years. He retired from the bench January 1, 1900.

**Myron H. Walker** was born at Westboro, Worcester county, Massachusetts on January 17th, 1855. His great grandfathers on both his father's and his mother's side took part in the War of the American Revolution, and two of his brothers in the War of the Rebellion. He is a son of Silas Walker and Louisa Everett Walker. He attended the district school in Westboro and prepared for High school in the city of Worcester. In June, 1870, he came with his parents to Grand Rapids to live. In September



*Myron H. Wadker*





following he entered the Grand Rapids High school of which Professor Daniels was then principal and Professor Strong superintendent. He was one of the organizers of the High School Debating Society or Lyceum, and took an active part therein. He graduated from the High school in the class of 1874. In the next two years he worked at lathing, taught school, took the commercial course in Swensberg's Business College, and kept books for the late Lewis M. Cutcheon, then in the lumber business. In 1876 he entered the law school of the Michigan University. In the vacation between his first and last years he studied law in the office of Fallass & Gleason. He graduated from the law school with the class of 1878 which also gave to the Grand Rapids bar, Frank L. Carpenter, G. A. Wolf, James R. Wylie and Judge Wanty. He then entered as clerk the law offices of Butterfield & Withey, and in the fall of 1878 he formed with Charles A. Renwick the law firm of Renwick & Walker. In the summer of 1879 the firm bought a law library at Lowell, Michigan, and removed there to practice. About a year later Mr. Renwick retired on account of his health and Mr. Walker continued in successful practice at Lowell until May, 1885, when he sold his library and office to Judge Davis of Ionia. In June, 1885, Mr. Walker opened an office in Grand Rapids where he has since practiced law actively, continuously and successfully. From 1893 to 1895 he was in partnership with G. A. Wolf. In 1897 he formed the partnership of Walker & Fitzgerald which still continues.

Mr. Walker is known as interested in, and a student of, social, municipal, historical and political matters, has always been an active temperance worker, and is called upon to make many public addresses. He has never held public office, but has many times led forlorn hopes in political contests. He was born and claims to be now an "Abraham Lincoln Republican," and voted for James A. Garfield for president. In the spring of 1884 he joined the Prohibition party, campaigned and voted for St. John and in all its campaigns was an active worker and campaigner for this party, and at different times its candidate for Prosecuting Attorney, Member of Congress, Attorney General and Justice of the Supreme Court. In 1900 as an anti imperialist and follower of Bryan he joined the Democrats and in 1902 was the candidate of that party for Member of Congress. In this campaign he and his campaign committee set a precedent by not spending a cent of

money directly or indirectly for liquor, cigars or any other inducements to voters; his own personal expenditures were \$51.00; his canvass was active, clean and honorable, and he spoke in all the important towns of the district.

He was born and bred a Baptist and for thirty-three years has been an attendant of the Fountain Street Baptist church, and a member and worker in its Sunday school.

On September 19th, 1888, he was married to Nettie E. Stevens, a successful teacher, of Lowell, Michigan. They have two children, Marjorie L., born February 17th, 1891, and Richard Everett born September 26th, 1896, both of whom attend the public schools.

Mr. Walker has always conducted a general practice of law, and has done his share of office, court and trial work. He has been retained in important litigation and among other noted causes he has appeared in the following:

*Brockway vs. Patterson*, (1888) 72 Mich. 122, which was an action under the Civil Damage Law, brought by the widow against a saloon keeper for selling liquor to her husband and another, thereby causing intoxication and her husband's death. In this case for the first time it was established in Michigan that the widow or children injured in their means of support by the death of the husband or father, may maintain an action for damages against the saloon keeper who caused or contributed to the intoxication and consequent death.

This was a question long mooted and in which there is a conflict of authority in the different states.

*Todd vs. Board of Election Commissioners of Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Branch and Hillsdale counties* (1894) 104 Mich. 474. This was a mandamus proceeding brought by Mr. Walker for his client, Albert M. Todd of Kalamazoo, prohibition and democratic candidate for congress in the fourth district to test the constitutionality of the so-called "Anti Fusion law." The law was held constitutional by a majority of the court, but Mr. Todd prevailed in the mandamus proceedings.

*McGee vs. McGee*, which involved the disposition of a large estate and which was appealed to the Supreme Court on the questions of fact involved and was won in that court (1895) 105 Mich. 602, by Mr. Walker's clients. There was a printed record of 1650 pages in this case.

Belding Land and Improvement Co. vs. City of Belding and Citizens' Light Company (1901) 128 Mich. 79, in which Mr. Walker appeared for the defendant, the Citizens' Light Company, and contended for the doctrine laid down in the opinion and for the constitutionality of the act authorizing cities to own and operate their own electric light plant, which act was upheld by the Supreme Court against the attack of eminent counsel.

People vs. Albers (1904) 11 Detroit Legal News, 441. This was one of the cases growing out of the celebrated water deal, in which upon appeal a reversal was obtained of the conviction in the Superior Court upon numerous important points of error, and the case was not retried but was subsequently nolleprossed.

Blickley vs. Luce Estate, tried for seven weeks in October and November, 1905, before a jury in the Kent Circuit Court, and in which Mr. Walker's client recovered a verdict for twenty-five thousand dollars, at that time the second largest verdict that had ever been rendered in that court. This case involved the fall of the Luce Block and the important and somewhat celebrated question of whether it fell as the result of fire, as determined in the insurance cases, or whether the fire was the result of the fall, which latter was found by the jury in this case.

This case is now on the way to the Supreme Court.

**Roger Williams Butterfield**, Grand Rapids: His father was the Rev. Isaac Butterfield, who for more than a half century was an active and efficient minister of the Baptist church. Isaac Butterfield was a scholarly divine, a sound reasoner and polished orator, earnest and faithful in his calling. Although the itinerary does not belong to the loyalty of the Baptist church, its ministers are not installed in permanent pastorates. Rev. Mr. Butterfield was accustomed to work in the vineyard wherever the Master called. During his many pastorates he was beloved by his congregation and attached to his home, but he did not hesitate to move from village to city and from east to west along the paths where his duty seemed to lie and the opportunities for doing good seemed largest. He went with his family from Elbridge to Oswego in 1846 where he remained nine years; thence to Watertown where he remained two years and thence to Davenport, Ia. Roger was born April 23, 1844, in the village of Elbridge, Onondaga county, New York, and lived at the several places mentioned in his childhood and youth. He

was thirteen years of age when he left his native state for the West. His boyhood had been favored by excellent paternal training and the rudiments of an education had been acquired in the public schools of the State of New York. At fifteen he entered 'Griswold College at Davenport, a school under the patronage of the Protestant Episcopal church. In this school and the college at Adrian, Mich., he pursued his literary studies until February 1, 1865, when he entered Princeton College, New Jersey, in the middle of the junior year. He completed the course of study with his class and was graduated with honors in June, 1866. He took the degrees A. B. and A. M. It had been his father's intention that Roger should enter the ministry, but upon graduating from college he reached the determination to enter the profession of the law. Following his inclination in that regard, and with a desire to make as thorough preparation as possible, he entered the law school of the University of Michigan, and during the vacations pursued a course of reading in the law office of Moore & Griffin, of Detroit. He was graduated from the law school in 1868. He then entered the law office of the Hon. John W. Champlin at Grand Rapids. Judge Champlin recognized Mr. Butterfield's fitness for the profession of the law and within a few months extended to him an offer of partnership. On January 1, 1869, the firm of Champlin & Butterfield was formed. Four years later Hon. J. C. Fitzgerald came to Grand Rapids from Marshall and was admitted to the firm. Mr. Butterfield continued as a member of this firm until March, 1876, when he retired, and for two years following carried on practice alone. In June, 1878, he became associated with Edward W. Withey, now deceased, under the firm name of Butterfield & Withey. This partnership relation continued for about two and a half years. For several years thereafter Mr. Butterfield practiced alone. On January 1, 1887, he formed a partnership with Willard F. Keeney, under the firm name of Butterfield and Keeney, and that firm has been maintained without change until the present time. Mr. Butterfield is a thorough lawyer, giving to the investigation of every question the careful thought and sedulous application essential to its understanding. His convictions on any subject of importance are deep and he always has the courage to express them as occasion may require. Judge Champlin says of him: "He will not permit



*R. W. Butterfield*

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himself to be deceived by his sympathies or wishes to make the worse appear the better reason, or by the glamour which false logic too often throws over the subject of investigation." Within the pale of his profession he has kept pace with the progress of the times. He is ever alert to the interests of his clients, bringing into the trial of a cause all the energy and singleness of purpose essential to secure the best results. He is too ambitious to be satisfied with anything below the best attainments, and too conscientious to be indifferent to the obligations of the profession. He is known as an able trial lawyer, and his business sagacity has made him valued as a counsellor. He is engaged in general practice and various causes argued by him will be found in the reports of the Supreme Court of Michigan, the Federal Courts of the Sixth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. He is broadly cultured of wide and varied reading, particularly in the fields of English and American History and literature. He has one of the best and selected libraries in the state, said to contain more than 5,000 volumes. He was married in May, 1876, to Leonora I. Drake, of Fort Wayne, Ind. They have four children. His domestic and social attachments are the strongest. While Mr. Butterfield's life has been given to practice of his profession, he has not been indifferent to matters affecting public welfare. He has been the firm and consistent friend of both common school and higher education. In 1887, he was elected one of the regents of the University of Michigan, an office for which his scholarship and talents as a man of affairs fit him most admirably. In 1895 at the expiration of his first term of services as regent he was nominated by acclamation by the Republican State Convention for a second term in the same office and was elected thereto at the spring election of that year. Politically he is a Republican, although the field of politics has never tempted him to turn aside from the professional life upon which he entered nearly thirty years ago. He is possessed of public spirit and has been identified with many enterprises which tend to promote the interests of the community. He is connected as director or stockholder with many of the most important industrial and financial institutions of Grand Rapids.

**John C. Fitzgerald**, son of Jeremiah and Sylvia (Strickland) Fitzgerald, was born in Berlin, Huron county, Ohio, in 1835, and



when an infant, his parents removed to Springfield, Jackson county, Michigan.

His early days were spent upon the farm with the privilege of attending the district schools during a few months of the year. His early education was secured with money earned by teaching school which enabled him to attend the Albion college. Upon leaving school, went to Jackson and entered the office of Austin Blair who was afterwards the war governor. He was admitted to the bar in 1858, after which he continued to practice in Jackson until 1860, when he removed to Marshall, Calhoun county. He remained there until 1873. He held the office of prosecuting attorney from 1861 to 1865; in 1873 entered into partnership with Champlin & Butterfield, of Grand Rapids, which continued for several years. He practiced in Grand Rapids until 1905.

Mr. Fitzgerald is now a resident of California.

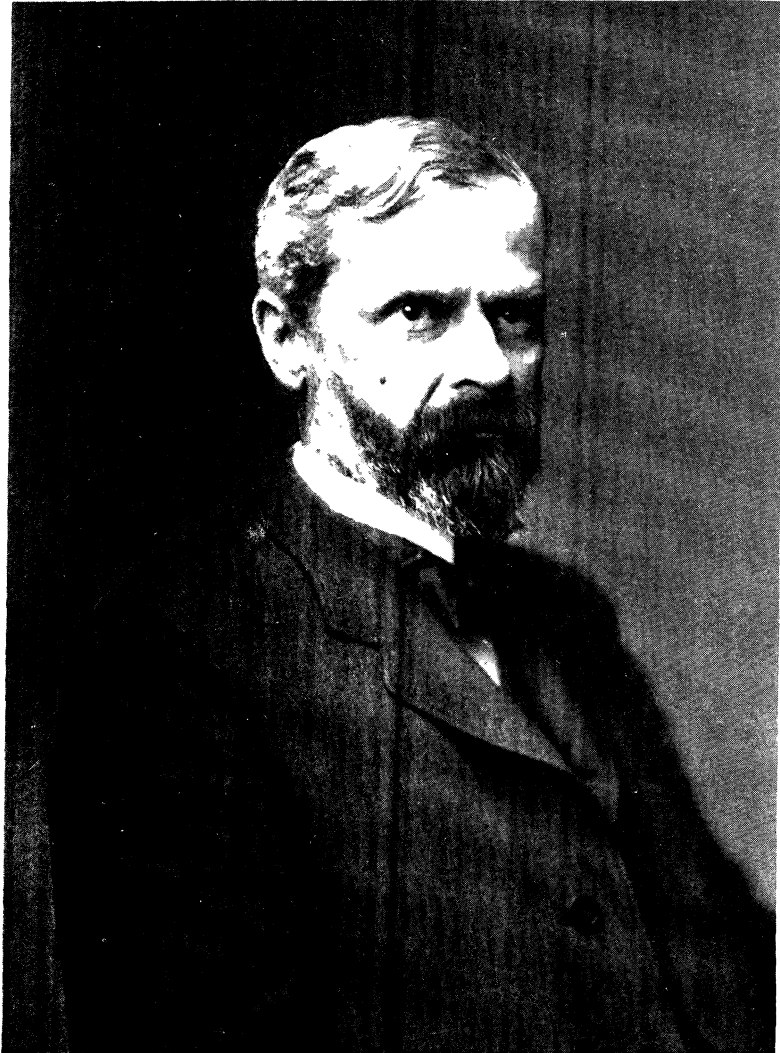
**Lucius Boltwood** was born July 27, 1862, at Amherst, Mass.; attended high school at Hartford, Conn., and Yale University from 1883 to 1886 when he was admitted to the Connecticut bar. Came to Grand Rapids in February, 1887, where he was admitted to the bar and has since been in practice.

**Jacob Steketee** was born Feb. 22, 1873, in Grand Rapids, Mich.; graduated from the law department of Michigan University in 1895 and was admitted to the bar in Grand Rapids same year and commenced practice.

**Charles M. Owen** was born in Newark, Ohio, July 18, 1874; graduated from the law department of Ann Arbor University in 1898; was admitted to the bar, came to Grand Rapids and commenced practice.

**John E. More** was born at Roxbury, Delaware county, N. Y., Aug. 5, 1848; graduated from the Cornell University in 1871, entered the office of Champlin & Butterfield of Grand Rapids and was admitted to the bar in September, 1873, then graduated from the Michigan University law department in 1876 and returned to Grand Rapids where he has since been in practice. He is now a member of the Board of Assessors.

**Reuben Hatch, Jr.**, is a native of Alstead, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, and was born October 11, 1847, to Reuben and Almira (Kilbourn) Hatch. His father, also a native of Alstead, was born June 3, 1814, and still survives (1905) at the age of ninety-two years. He is a Congregational Minister, and has



*Ruben Hatch*



been a successful preacher of the gospel and was one of the founders of Olivet College, Michigan. He was married at Hudson, Ohio, December 16, 1846; his wife, (our subject's mother), surviving until 1859.

Mr. Hatch's ancestors first settled in America about 1620, at Falmouth, Barnstable County, Massachusetts. Both his father and mother were educated at Oberlin, Ohio. They were very devout and spared no pains in the careful training and education of their children, and to their faithful discipline and example our subject is largely indebted for those habits of industry, perseverance and studiousness that have always characterized him. After finishing his academic education, Mr. Hatch studied law in the office and under the direction of E. S. Pratt, Esq., a prominent lawyer at Traverse City, Michigan, and on May 12, 1870, was admitted to the bar before the Circuit Court for Grand Traverse County, Michigan. Upon his admission to the bar, he became associated as a partner with his former preceptor. This partnership continued until his election to the bench of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan, which office he filled with ability from January 1, 1876, to January 1, 1882.

Upon retiring from the bench, Judge Hatch associated himself with Messrs. E. S. Pratt and H. C. Davis, under the firm name of Pratt, Hatch & Davis, and continued that relation at Traverse City. On his removal to Grand Rapids, in March, 1888, Judge Hatch formed a partnership with Mr. Harry D. Jewell, who is now (1905) Judge of Probate of Kent County, and in 1892 he formed with Mr. Hugh E. Wilson his present partnership. He is known as an able lawyer, a safe counsellor and successful advocate. His practice is general in character.

In politics Mr. Hatch is a Republican. He is not connected with any church organization, but his affiliations are with the Congregationalists.

On August 28, 1872, Mr. Hatch married Mrs. Esther H. Sprague Day.

**Albert Crane** was born in Pennyan, N. Y., in 1841; came to Michigan and graduated from the high school of Ypsilanti in 1860; studied law there for a time and entered Ann Arbor University from which he was admitted to the bar in 1869. Com-

menced practice at Ypsilanti; in 1882 he went to Detroit and came to Grand Rapids in 1888 where he still remains in practice.

**James H. Campbell** was born in Calhoun county, Mich., November 12, 1850; attended the schools of Marshall, Mich., where he also studied law and was admitted in 1872; practiced until 1881 then went to Muskegon and came to Grand Rapids in 1883 where he has since been in active practice; is now general counsel for the G. R. & I. Ry., was city attorney of Marshall three years, member of the legislature two terms, 1879 to 1882. Was married Jan. 18, 1879, at Marshall, Mich., to Miss Caroline B. Portman, daughter of Rev. James G. Portman.

**Howard A. Thornton** was born in Van Buren county, Mich., Nov. 9, 1872; graduated from law department of Michigan University in 1893 and has since practiced in Grand Rapids.

**Stuart E. Knappen**, born at Hastings, Mich., Aug. 30, 1877; graduated from literary department of Michigan University in 1894 and took the degree of A. B. in 1898; studied law with his father in Grand Rapids and was admitted in 1900.

**Alvin E. Ewing**, born in Jackson, Ohio, Nov. 10, 1864; graduated from the law department of Michigan University in June, 1892; commenced practice in Grand Rapids in 1893 where he still remains.

**Everett D. Comstock** was born in Keene, N. H., Sept. 22, 1851; educated in the schools of Keene and took a classical course in the New London Scientific institution, Latin and Greek; studied law in St. Louis for a time and came to Grand Rapids in 1881 where he was admitted to the bar and commenced practice; was Circuit Court Commissioner for four years and clerk of the Superior Court two years.

**Raymond M. Ferguson** was born in Chicago, July 14, 1871; graduated from the Middleville, Mich., high school in 1888, and from the preparatory high school at Ann Arbor in 1889; spent three years in the literary department of the University of Michigan and graduated from the law department in 1895; came to Grand Rapids and commenced practice where he still remains. He was appointed assistant city attorney in 1903 under Moses Taggart.

**Willis Barnes Perkins** was born in Linden, Genesee county, Mich., February 7, 1861, to Delos A. and Marilla A. Perkins, with whom he moved to Fenton, Mich., at the age of eight years, and



*Willis B. Perkins*



at the age of fourteen came with them to Grand Rapids, where he has since remained with the exception of about five years which he spent in the practice of law at Kalkaska, this state.

Although Mr. Perkins had the advantages of the public schools of Fenton and Grand Rapids, his early career was fraught with more or less difficulties, being frequently obliged to seek employment with different firms of Grand Rapids. With the tireless aid of his parents, particularly his mother, he was enabled to surmount these early tribulations, and in 1880 began the study of law in the office of Kennedy & Thompson where he remained for one year then entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating with the degree of L. L. B. two years later. He returned then to Grand Rapids and acted as assistant in the office of Stuart & Sweet, attorneys, until 1883, when he removed to Kalkaska, Mich., and became associated in the practice of law with A. A. Bleazby, continued about a year in that connection. In November, 1884, he was elected prosecuting attorney of that place, and after serving one term, effected a partnership with Ernest S. Ellis which continued until January, 1888, and Mr. Perkins practiced alone until March, 1889, when a fire destroyed his office and library in April of that year and he returned to Grand Rapids and went into partnership with Edwin F. Sweet. In February, 1895, Hon. J. Byron Judkins joined the firm which was then styled Sweet, Perkins & Judkins. In July, 1897, Mr. Judkins and Mr. Perkins became an independent law firm styled Judkins & Perkins.

In 1899, Mr. Perkins was elected circuit court judge of Kent county, and entered upon the duties of the office on Jan. 1, 1900, where he has since served with abundant satisfaction to all. He was re-elected in April, 1905, for a second term.

**Charles E. Ward** was born in Ada township, Kent county, April 3, 1858, to William W. and Caroline Ward; he was educated in the common schools of the county; read law under the direction of Isaac H. Parish and was admitted to the bar in 1883; was associated in office with his brother L. A. Ward, until the latter's death in September, 1892, and from 1893 to 1900 was associated with Judge Wolcott, and in 1901 with W. B. Brown; he was assistant prosecuting attorney for four years under Judge Wolcott and is now serving in the same capacity under W. B. Brown.

**Clyde J. Holmes** was born at Marshall, Mich., Sept. 14, 1872;



came to Grand Rapids in 1876; educated in common schools and Albion college; studied law and was admitted June 13, 1895. In 1898 and 1899 he was connected with the law department of the Railroad Commissioner at Lansing.

**Major L. Dunham** was born at Highland, Oakland county, Mich., March 19, 1850; attended high school at Howell and the Baptist Seminary at Fenton; studied law and was admitted to the bar in October, 1875; came to Grand Rapids in 1887 where he has since practiced; was prosecuting attorney for four years and city attorney three years. Mr. Dunham makes a specialty of criminal practice.

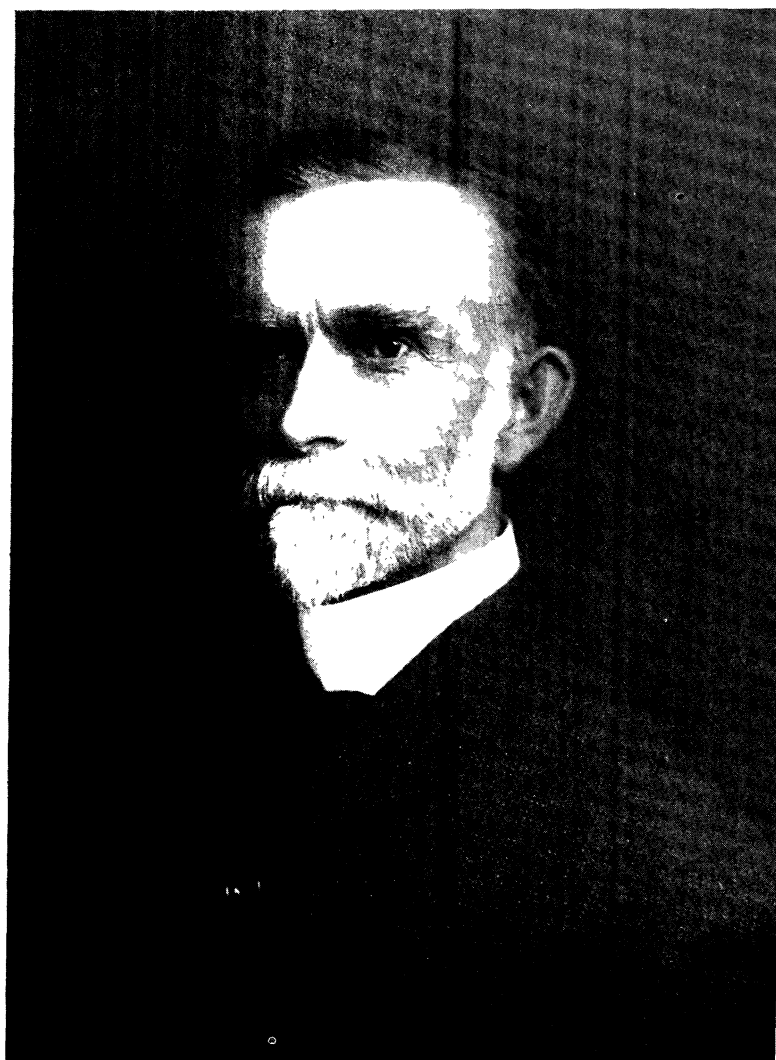
**James D. Malcolm** was born Dec. 20, 1866, in Cascade township, Kent county, Mich.; studied law and was admitted to the bar in November, 1890, and was assistant prosecuting attorney from 1890 to 1892. Still practicing in Grand Rapids.

**Pleasant I. Phillips**, born in Grand Rapids March 13, 1876; graduated from the law department of Ann Arbor University in 1900, and has since been in practice in Grand Rapids.

**Richard L. Newnham** was born in London, England, September 20, 1850; came to Michigan and was educated in the common schools and graduated from the Ypsilanti Normal school in 1875; studied law in the office of Judge Padgham, at Allegan, Mich., and was admitted in the fall of 1876; commenced practice at Saugatuck which he continued until 1880 then moved to Allegan; in 1892 he was appointed prosecuting attorney to fill vacancy for one year; in 1894 was appointed Assistant United States Attorney for four years; came to Grand Rapids and in 1899, was elected Superior Court judge, which office he held until the spring of 1905.

**Rolland J. Cleland**, born at Coopersville, Mich., in 1869; graduated from the Michigan Agricultural college in 1889; attended law department of the University of Michigan for two years and was admitted to the bar in 1891; commenced practice in Grand Rapids where he is at present, having spent five years in Detroit in the meantime.

**Loyal Edwin Knappen** was born at Hastings, Michigan, January 27, 1854, son of Edwin and Sarah M. (Nevins) Knappen, both natives of Vermont. His grandfather, Rev. Mason Knappen, was born during the Revolutionary war, a member of the Judea Society, which, with two other societies in Litchfield



*Lyonel E. Knappen*



County, were organized into the town of Washington, named in honor of the then Commander-in-Chief of the American forces. Both of our subject's paternal great-grandfathers served in the War of the Revolution.

After leaving the public schools of Hastings, at the age of fifteen, Mr. Knappen entered the University of Michigan where he was graduated with the class of 1873, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Three years later he received the degree of Master of Arts in course, and immediately after his graduation, he began the study of law, but soon after spent six months as Assistant Principal of the Hastings High School and then resumed his law studies with Hon. James A. Swezey, at Hastings. On his admission to the bar in August, 1875, he formed a partnership with his former preceptor and continued that relation until 1878. During the next five years he was in partnership with his brother, Mr. Charles M. Knappen, and then associated himself with Mr. Christopher H. Van Arman, under the firm name of Knappen & Van Arman. In 1888 Mr. Knappen settled in Grand Rapids and as a partner with Mr. William J. Stuart and Mr. Van Arman, under the name of Stuart, Knappen & Van Arman, conducted offices at both Grand Rapids and Hastings, until the death of Mr. Van Arman, in 1890, soon after which the Hastings office was discontinued. The firm of Stuart & Knappen continued until 1893, when Mr. Knappen became a member of the firm of Taggart, Knappen & Denison and so continued for six years. In 1899 Mr. Knappen associated himself with Hon. George P. Wanty, under the name of Wanty & Knappen. On Mr. Wanty's accession to the Federal bench, in 1900, the firm of Knappen & Kleinhans was formed, and in 1902, Mr. Knappen's son, Stuart E. Knappen, was admitted to the firm, the name changing to Knappen, Kleinhans & Knappen, which still (1905) continues.

Mr. Knappen is known as a careful, conscientious and able lawyer, and has been honored with numerous offices of trust which he has filled with much credit. He served as prosecuting attorney for Barry County from 1878 to 1882; from 1880 to 1888 he was United States Commissioner, and for three years was a member of the Hastings Board of Education. From 1888 to 1891 he served as assistant prosecuting attorney for Kent County; during two years—1900-02—was a member of the Grand

Rapids Board of Education, and since January 1, 1904, has been a regent of the State University.

Mr. Knappen is a member of both the National and State Bar Associations, and is now (1905) President of the Grand Rapids Bar Association. He belongs to the Masonic and Knights of Pythias orders, and to the Sons of the American Revolution. He is a member of the Psi Upsilon fraternity, and belongs to the Peninsular Club and the Kent Country Club. In politics he is a Republican.

On October 23, 1876, Mr. Knappen married Miss Amelia I. Kenyon of Hastings, and they have three children, namely: Stuart E., Fred M., now living at Ocean Park, California, and Florence, now the wife of Mr. Arthur D. Perry of Grand Rapids.

**Roy M. Watkins**, born at Rockford, Mich., October 17, 1874; graduated from the Michigan University law department, 1899; commenced practice in Grand Rapids same year where he still remains, in practice with his father, firm is Watkins & Watkins. He was appointed State examiner of taxable inheritances, being the first incumbent under the inheritance tax law.

**Glenn W. Holmes** was born at Marshall, Mich., Nov. 29, 1869; he was educated at the Grand Rapids high school and the literary department of the University of Michigan; studied law and was admitted to practice on June 13, 1895; and soon after became connected with the post office of which he is now superintendent of mails.

**James Robert Wylie** was born at Martin, Mich., Oct. 14, 1849; graduated from the law department of University of Michigan in 1878; engaged in practice of law in Grand Rapids in 1893 in partnership with George Clapperton where he remained until he assumed management of the National City Bank of Grand Rapids. (Sketch will be found under the head of Bankers.)

**Henry F. Walch** was born in Madison county, N. Y., July 19, 1848; attended common and high schools of Syracuse, and came to Grand Rapids in 1869; studied law and was admitted in 1877 at Grand Rapids and has been court reporter since 1869.

**William James Stuart** was born in Yankee Springs, Barry county, Mich., Nov. 1, 1844. His early education was acquired in the common schools while working on the farm. At the age of fifteen he entered the public schools at Hastings and later the high school of Kalamazoo from which he was graduated in 1863;



*W. J. Stuart.*



after teaching school one term, entered the freshman class of the University of Michigan in 1864 and was graduated from the literary department in 1868, having earned the wherewith to pay his own expenses. He taught school for two years succeeding his graduation from the University, at Hastings, and then entered the office of Balch, Smiley & Balch, where he pursued the study of law for a time after which he entered the law department of the University of Michigan, graduating with the degree of L. L. B. in 1872. He then returned to Kalamazoo and became a partner in the firm in which he had formerly been a student, but the association was only temporary. He came to Grand Rapids in November of the same year, and in January, 1873, was appointed assistant prosecuting attorney for Kent county under E. A. Burlingame. At the same time he formed a partnership for general practice under the firm name and style of Burlingame & Stuart, which continued until April 20, 1876. He was appointed city attorney for Grand Rapids in 1880 and held the position for two terms. In May, 1888, he was appointed prosecuting attorney of Kent county to fill the vacancy caused by the removal of the incumbent, and was afterwards elected for a full term. In April, 1905, he was elected judge of the Superior Court of Grand Rapids.

In addition to these offices, Mr. Stuart has held other positions both political and educational. For two years he was a member of the Board of Education of Grand Rapids. In 1892 he was elected mayor of the city and re-elected in 1893, serving two terms. The University of Michigan conferred upon him the degree of master of arts, and for 1894-5 he was president of the society of the alumni of the university. He has devoted his talents and energies almost without reserve to the practice of law; was associated with E. F. Sweet for twelve years, from April, 1876, and for five years, from April, 1888, was in partnership with Loyal E. Knappen. From 1893 to 1897 he was engaged in the general practice alone. In the spring of 1897 he formed partnership with S. W. Barker, under the style of Stuart & Barker, which was dissolved in 1901. In 1902 the firm of Stuart & Heald was formed and continued until May 1st, 1905, when Mr. Stuart assumed the duties of judge of the Superior Court.

Mr. Stuart was married on April 13, 1874, to Miss Calista Hadley, of Hastings.

**Cornelius Hoffius** was born in The Netherlands in 1882; grad-



uated from the University of Michigan in law department in 1904; was admitted and commenced practice in Grand Rapids, and on Jan. 1, 1905, was appointed assistant prosecuting attorney by W. B. Brown.

**Frank W. Hine** was born at Lowell, Mich., May 3, 1861; graduated from Lowell high school in 1878 and from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1881; was Register of Probate from 1885 to 1890; assistant city attorney from 1899 to 1902, and at present secretary to Mayor Sweet.

**Frank G. Holmes** was born in Albion, Calhoun county, Mich., Nov. 18, 1842. He was educated in the common schools until 1855, then attended the Weslian seminary now Albion college, until 1860; after a course in the University of Michigan law department, was admitted in 1866 and commenced practice at Marshall, Mich., which continued until 1876. He was assistant United States attorney for Eastern district of Michigan in 1872; removed to Grand Rapids in 1876 and became deputy prosecuting attorney of Kent county following Judge W. J. Stewart and has since practiced here, firm of Holmes & Holmes.

**Harry D. Jewell**, Judge of Probate for Kent County, was born in Wheaton, Illinois, March 5th, 1869. His parents afterwards located upon a farm near Cedar Springs, Michigan, and he was educated in the schools of that village, graduating from the High School when 17 years old. For the next three years he worked upon his father's farm and read law in the office of D. C. Lyle of Cedar Springs. In 1889 he entered the Law Department of the University of Michigan from which he was graduated in 1891. For the next year he took a post graduate course and was assistant librarian and assistant to the Marshall Professor of Law. After leaving the University he became a partner of Judge Reuben Hatch in the practice of law at Grand Rapids.

In 1893 Mr. Jewell was appointed register of Probate for Kent County and continued in that office until January 1st, 1897, when he became Judge of Probate, having been nominated and elected to that position in 1896. He was re-elected in 1900, and again in 1904, without opposition.

Judge Jewell has often been a contributor to various professional and literary journals and to law publications. He was one of the organizers of the American Republican College League, and was President of the Young Men's Republican Club



Harry Jewell



of Grand Rapids for three terms. He is an active member of the Michigan Probate Judges Association of which he was President for two years, and did much to give lawyers the code of rules for uniform practice in the Probate Courts of the State which has been adopted by the Supreme Court.

Judge Jewell is a thirty-second degree Mason, a Knight Templar, is past chancellor in the Knights of Pythias, a Woodman, a Maccabee, and a member of many other protective and fraternal orders.

On August 8th, 1894, he married Miss Euphennie Smith at Churdan, Iowa. For many years their home has been upon Hollister Street.

As a Judge of Probate and a jurist of Probate law, he stands high in the community and the profession.

**Edgar J. Adams** was born in Branch county, Mich., Aug. 6, 1866; at the age of seventeen commenced teaching school and later went into the real estate and insurance business; in 1888 he commenced the study of law and Jan. 1, 1892, moved to Grand Rapids and engaged in office work still continuing his law studies; was admitted to the bar in March, 1894; in the fall of 1896 he was elected by the Republican party representative for the first district of Kent county and served during the regular session of 1897 and the special session of 1898 when he was re-elected and in 1899 was elected speaker of the house.

**Earl R. Stewart** was born October 5, 1872, in Byron township, Kent county, Mich.; graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1900 when he was admitted to the bar; was elected Circuit court commissioner in 1902 and re-elected in 1904.

**Leonorr L. Park** was born in Jamestown, Ottawa county, Mich., in 1880; attended public schools and the Detroit college of law and was admitted June 15, 1903 and has since been in practice.

**John Patton, Jr.**, was born at Curwinsville, Pa., October 30, 1850; prepared for college at Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., and was graduated from Yale in class of 1875; completed a regular law course at the Columbian law school and came to Grand Rapids and opened a law office in 1879 where he has since practiced. On May 5, 1894, he was appointed United States senator to fill vacancy and held the position until his successor was elected in January of the following year.

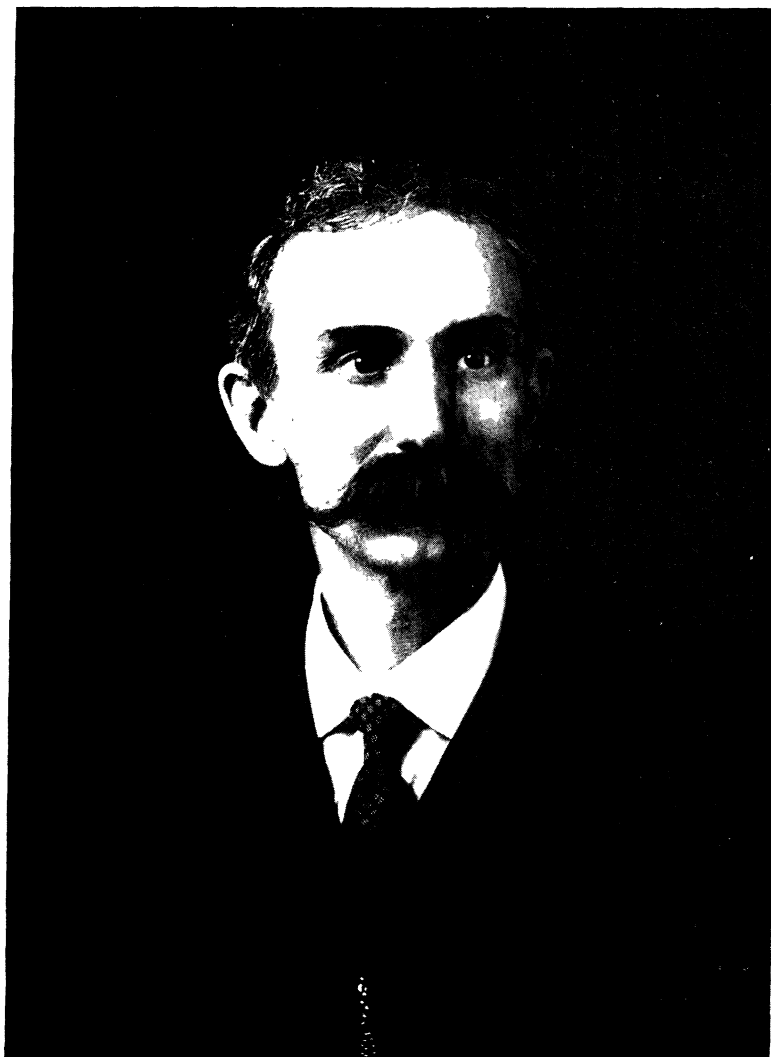
**Willard F. Keeney** was born at Arcola, Ill., January 25, 1862; studied law at the University of Michigan and in the office of Roger W. Butterfield; was admitted to the bar at Grand Rapids in 1883; commenced practice with Mr. Butterfield in 1887. He is now a member of the firm of Butterfield & Keeney.

**Frank A. Hess** was born at Rochester, N. Y., April 7, 1873; was educated in the schools and business college of Grand Rapids and graduated from the Detroit college of law in 1899; was elected Judge of the Police Court in 1904 to fill vacancy caused by the death of Judge Haggerty; his term expired May 1, 1906, and he was elected for another term.

**William D. Fuller** was born in Geauga county, Ohio, Sept. 3, 1840; was educated in the common schools of Michigan and at Hiram college, Ohio. Studied law at Newaygo, Mich., and was admitted to the bar Sept. 1, 1864. After four years' practice, he was elected prosecuting attorney for Newaygo county, and was re-elected in 1870. At the expiration of his second term he removed to Grand Rapids and was associated with Col. Standish from 1873 to 1880, returned to Newago and was again elected prosecuting attorney in 1882. In 1887 was appointed reporter of the Supreme court and his name has become familiar throughout the state through the numerous volumes of reports issued by him.

**Carl E. Mapes** was born in Eaton county, Mich., in 1874; received his education at Olivet college and in 1899 graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan. He was assistant prosecuting attorney until Jan. 1, 1905, and a representative in the Michigan legislature in the session of 1906.

**Dwight Goss** was born in Portage county, Ohio, Feb. 18, 1857, the only child of Sidney and Sarah (Gilmore) Goss. He attended school in Portage county until ten years of age when his father moved to Clinton county, Mich., where he again attended school and was graduated from the Ionia high school in 1879. The following year he occupied himself in farming and teaching school, then entered the literary department of the University of Michigan, studying two years after which he took a course in law at the same institution. Then came to Grand Rapids where he spent one and a half years in the office of Smiley & Earle as clerk. In 1886 he was admitted to the bar and commenced practice January 1, 1887, which he has since continued. He was



*Dwight Goss.*



appointed assistant United States attorney for the Western district of Michigan in May, 1898, and filled the position until the spring of 1902 since which time he has been engaged in a general practice of the law.

**Ambrose C. Hindman** was born in Carroll county, Ind., Dec. 23, 1869. He graduated from high school in 1886, and for the following four years taught school in Carroll county; attended the State Normal school at Terre Haute and later graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1893. In October of the same year he came to Grand Rapids where he studied law until January, 1897, then commenced practice where he still continues.

**Gelmer Kuiper** was born on August 10, 1869, in the Netherlands and came to America with his parents ten years later; he was educated in Hope college, at Holland, Mich., receiving the degrees of A. B. and A. M., then entered the University of Michigan and received the degree of L. L. B. from the law department in 1893 and immediately commenced practice in Grand Rapids; was appointed claim agent of the Detroit, Grand Rapids & Western and Chicago & West Michigan Railway companies in 1897. He is now claim agent for the Pere Marquette.

**Cyrus E. Perkins**, ex-judge of probate of Kent county, was born in Lawrence, Mass., Oct. 9, 1847. Came to Grand Rapids and was graduated from the Grand Rapids High School in 1866. The following year was spent in travel and upon his return was employed as a clerk until February, 1872, when he commenced the study of law in Grand Rapids which he continued for five years and was admitted to the bar in 1884; continued in active practice for two years, but in the meantime, in 1876, he had been elected to succeed Judge Harlan as judge of probate; took possession of the office in 1877 continuing until 1885, being re-elected his own successor by the Republican party. By Gov. Luce he was appointed judge of probate to fill the unexpired term of Judge Follett in 1886 and in 1888 was regularly elected and again in 1892, filling the office in all eighteen years; served one year as treasurer of the Peninsula Company, and since 1898 has been associated in legal practice with L. W. Wolcott. Judge Perkins is a director of the Grand Rapids Chair Co., president of the G. R. Veneer Works, president of the Cold Storage Co., and chief executive of the New Erie Life Insurance Co., director of the Board of Trade,



director of the Citizens' Tel. Co., the G. R. Hook & Eye Co., and president of the Michigan Home & Hospital Association. Is also a member of the Knights of Pythias and Congregational church.

**John S. McDonald** was born at Morrisburg, Ont., Canada, Feb. 8, 1865. After attending the Toronto University, he took a course in the law department of the Michigan University and completed the study in the office of E. S. Eggleston, at Grand Rapids, and was admitted Dec. 22, 1890. Was assistant prosecuting attorney for four years being in partnership with Frank A. Rogers at the same time. In 1902 formed a partnership with Judge W. E. Grove, firm being Grove & McDonald.

**Peter Doran** was born in London, Canada, April 16, 1848. His parents were natives of County Down, North of Ireland. He was educated in the common schools of Canada and commenced active life as a wheelman and clerk of vessels sailing on the Great Lakes. Afterward he taught school and was manager of a general store. He devoted his leisure hours to studying law and in 1873, after a year's continuous study in the office of Marsden C. Burch, at Harsey, Osceola county, was admitted. Soon after his admission, he was appointed Circuit Court Commissioner and held the office during his stay in Osceola county. In the spring of 1874 he removed to Detroit and entered the employ of William S. Edwards, a lawyer of established reputation and practice. In 1876 a copartnership was entered into under the firm name of Edwards & Doran. In July, 1876, Mr. Doran came to Grand Rapids and opened an office under the firm name of Edwards & Doran which continued for two years, since which time Mr. Doran has been in practice for himself and alone. He conducts a general practice and has been in the same location for more than twenty-five years.

Mr. Doran is a Democrat and has always taken a deep interest in political and municipal affairs. For many years he was a member of the Democratic County Committee, the Congressional Committee and the State Central Committee. For a number of years he was Chairman of the City Committee and conducted his campaign with success, and is now Chairman of the Kent County Democratic Committee and President of the Democratic Club of Grand Rapids. He was elected State Senator in 1891 and re-elected in 1893. He was Chairman of the Committee on Railroads and the University Committee; was also a member



*Peter Doran*



of the Committees on Railroad Taxation and Judiciary, and also of the Committee on Military Affairs. In 1904 he was Democratic candidate for Elector in the Fifth Congressional District.

Mr. Doran is devoted to his profession and has never married. He conducts a general and varied practice in all the courts, and has had his share of success in the profession.

**William Aldrich Tateum**, a member of the Grand Rapids bar, came to this city in 1887; his early life was spent in Massachusetts and Connecticut where he graduated from the Wesleyan University at Middletown and was prepared for his chosen profession at Hartford, later becoming a student of the Boston University law school. In 1891 and 1892 he was a member of the Board of Aldermen of this city, having become active in political affairs. He was a member of the legislature in 1893 and 1894 and also was elected speaker.

**John Adrian Verkerke** was born in The Netherlands June 30th, 1857, and is the only child of a family of twenty children now living in America. He came to Grand Rapids at the age of nine years where he received his education, graduating from the high school at seventeen. He held various positions of trust in the employment of business firms until January 1, 1893, when he was appointed deputy county clerk which position he filled creditably. He was also in the same year elected Alderman from the Eleventh ward and during his service pursued his studies of the law at his office and at home, and in 1896 was admitted to the bar by Judge Adsit, and has since practiced here. In 1904 he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner.

**Gustave Adolph Wolf** was born in Ogdensburg, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1853; came to Grand Rapids when eleven years old; attended school until seventeen then entered the law office of Taggart, Simonds & Fletcher with whom he read law for one year, then entered the law department of the University of Michigan from which he graduated in 1878 with the degree of bachelor of laws; returned and worked in the office of his preceptors as clerk until 1881 when the firm became Simonds, Fletcher & Wolf and so continued until 1883 when Mr. Wolf went for himself in a general practice which he has since conducted.

**William F. McKnight** was born in Cascade, Kent county, Mich., July 23, 1863. Attended the common schools of Cascade until

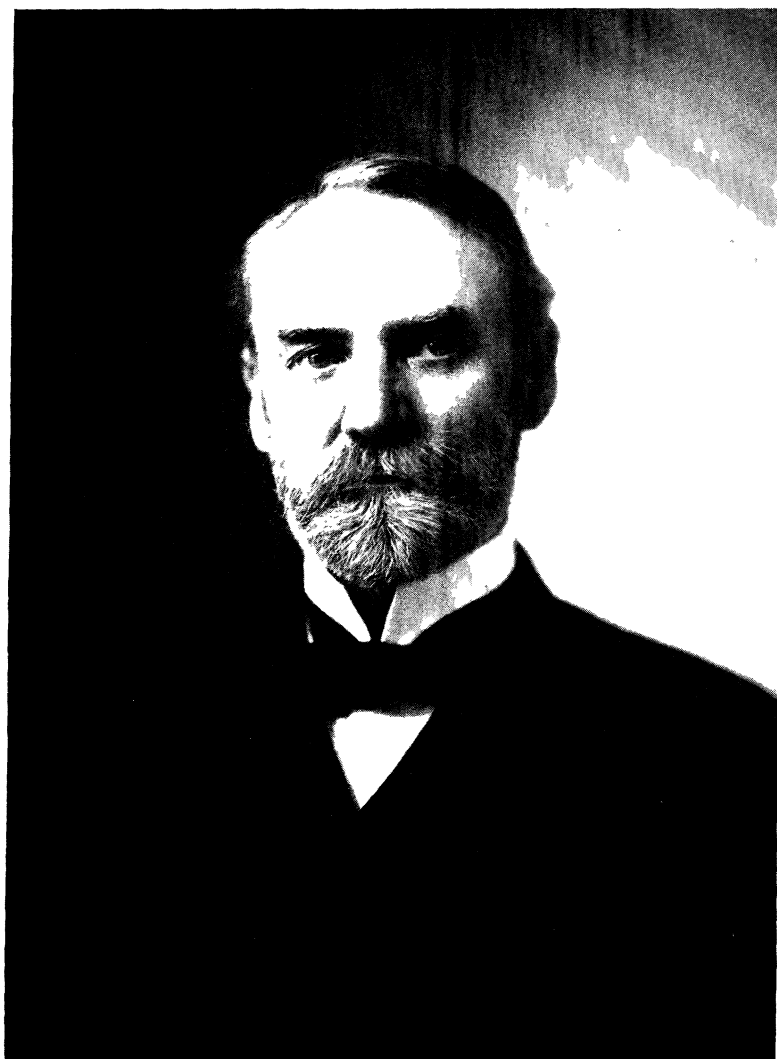
sixteen years old then taught school for two years; entered the Normal college at Valparaiso, Ind., from which he graduated with the degree of A. B. in 1884. Graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1887, and was admitted to the bar in 1888 at Grand Rapids. Practiced alone for short time and formed partnership with G. C. Goodwin and Allen C. Adsit, continued until 1890 when Mr. McKnight was elected prosecuting attorney and Mr. Adsit to the bench. Mr. McKnight served one year in office and formed partnership with McGarry & Ford which continued until 1898; and is now associated with James T. McAllister under the firm name of McKnight & McAllister.

**Gerald Fitzgerald** was born in the county of Perth, Ontario, March 29, 1858, son of John and Juliet (Carpenter) Fitzgerald; he was primarily educated in Stratford, Perth county, Canada, where he attended public school and the high school at Pontiac, Mich., from which he graduated in 1875; studied law and was admitted to the bar of Kent county in 1894. Until 1897 he was alone in practice, then became associated with M. H. Walker, with whom he still continues.

**Jesse F. Orton** was born Feb. 23, 1870, on a farm in Niagara county, N. Y. He was educated in the common schools, the high school in Coldwater, Mich., and graduated from the literary department of the University of Michigan in 1893; took a Post Graduate course at Cornell college in 1894-5 and graduated from the law department of the Michigan University in 1897, teaching school in the meantime. Went to Detroit and practiced law four years; came to Grand Rapids in 1901 where he has since remained.

**Charles L. Fitch** was born in Antwerp, Mich., July 24, 1845; he was educated in the common schools of Van Buren county, attended the Kalamazoo college and graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in April, 1867; practiced law in Michigan for about twenty years when he was appointed clerk of the United States Circuit court, which position he still occupies.

**Thomas F. Carroll** was born in Monroe county, New York, on November 23d, 1854. His parents were James and Mary (Kennedy) Carroll, who were natives of Ireland and migrated to America in 1845. They located in western New York, but shortly after the birth of their son, Thomas, they removed to Van Buren



*Thomas F. Carroll.*



county, Michigan, where the boyhood of Thomas F. Carroll was passed. He was educated in the common schools and commenced teaching school at the age of sixteen. He taught school for six years and improved his leisure time in reading law. In 1877 he came to Grand Rapids and completed his law studies with the law firm of Hughes, O'Brien and Smiley. He was admitted October 14th, 1878. In 1880 he formed a partnership with Isaac M. Turner, which continued until Mr. Turner's death in 1895. Mr. Carroll was assistant prosecuting attorney of Kent county while Mr. Turner was prosecuting attorney from 1883 to 1887. On March 9th, 1894, Mr. Carroll was appointed postmaster of Grand Rapids by President Cleveland and held the office for four years.

In politics Mr. Carroll is a Democrat. He has often and faithfully served on political committees. In 1890 he was a member of the executive committee of the Democratic State Central Committee. In 1892 he was chairman of the executive committee of the Democratic Congressional Committee of the Fifth district and had personal charge of the campaign for that year.

Mr. Carroll has been twice married. On October 11th, 1880, he married Ella M. Remington of Grand Rapids, who died in January, 1882. On August 19th, 1887, he married Julia Agnes Mead, only daughter of Major A. B. Watson. Mr. Carroll lives at 24 South Lafayette street.

From 1880 to 1895 Mr. Carroll was a member of the law firm of Turner & Carroll; on the death of Mr. Turner the firm name became Turner, Carroll & Kirwin. In 1902 Mr. Hollway was admitted to the firm, which became known as Carroll, Kirwin & Hollway.

Mr. Carroll is a business man as well as a lawyer. For many years he has been a director of the Fifth National Bank and his firm are the attorneys for that institution. He was a promoter of the Grand Rapids, Grand Haven & Muskegon Railway Co., and is now its counsel. He has large land holdings in and near the city.

**Charles J. Potter** was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., March 19, 1846; came to Grand Rapids when five years old, attended common school here, spent one term in the Ann Arbor law school; studied law in the office of Isaac H. Parish for a time and was for two years with Asa Inglehart, at Evansville, Ind., and was admitted to the bar in 1869. He was justice of the peace from 1878



to 1883; practiced at Grand Rapids from 1869 to 1901 when he was appointed clerk of United States District Court.

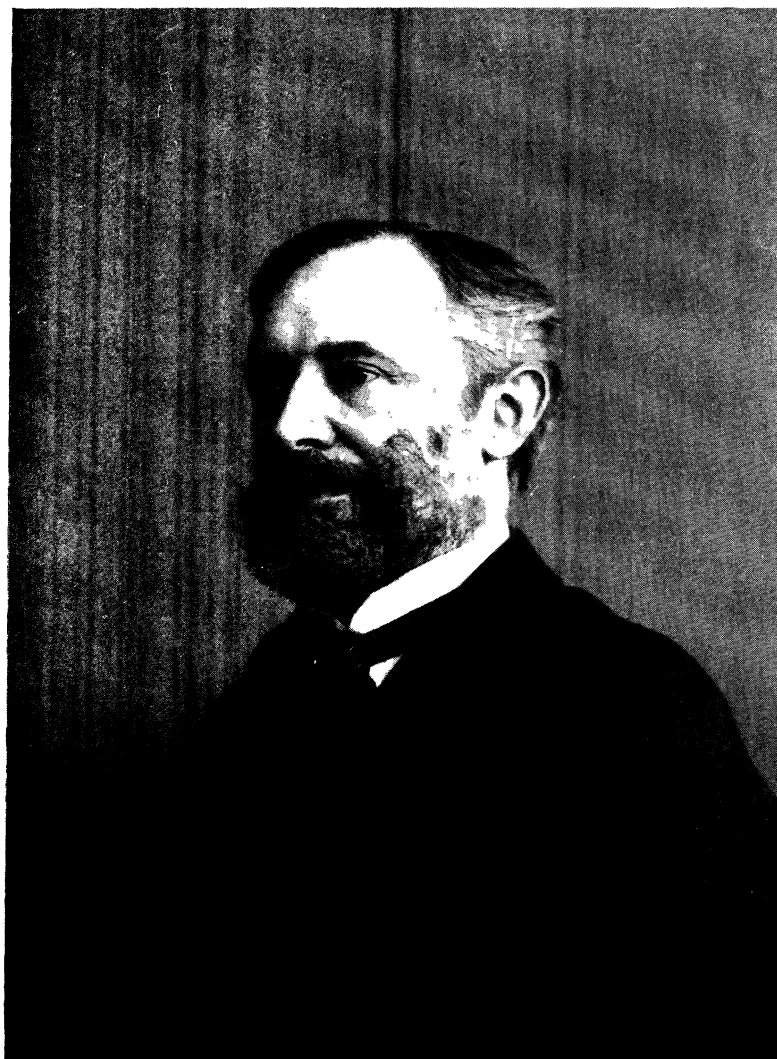
**J. Edward Earle** was born in New York City in 1843; was educated in the New York collegiate schools and graduated from the Mt. Vernon Collegiate institute in 1863; came to Grand Rapids and studied law with John C. Fitzgerald and was admitted to the bar in 1878; commenced practice and formed partnership with G. Chase Godwin. Later, in 1888, he formed a partnership with W. W. Hyde, the firm now being Hyde, Earle & Thornton, doing a general law business.

**Frank Merrill Ayer** was born in Cadillac, Mich., Jan. 13, 1879; graduated from the literary department of the University of Michigan in 1901, and from the law department in 1903; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Grand Rapids where he still remains.

**Willard Arnó Kingsley** was born December 25th, 1845, at Huntington, Lorlain County, Ohio. His father was a native of Massachusetts and his mother was a native of Maine. Both were of English families who settled in America prior to the revolution. Like General Grant his father was the proprietor of a tannery.

Willard was graduated from the literary department of the University of Michigan in the class of 1868. He pursued his legal studies at the University of Michigan and at Harvard and was admitted at Detroit before the Michigan Supreme Court in 1870.

Locating in Grand Rapids he soon became a member of the law firm of Norris, Blair & Kingsley, which afterwards became Blair, Eggleston, Kingsley & Kleinhans; then Blair, Kingsley & Kleinhans, and is now Kingsley & Wicks. Mr. Kingsley has always been a lawyer, nothing more, nothing less. He has had no side issues, has been interested in no business enterprises, has always been independent in politics, and has never been a candidate for office. He has been so devoted to his business that he has never married. While a student he was a member of the Zeta Psi College society and for many years has been an Elk. He is liberal in his religious views, and tolerant of the follies and foibles of his fellow men, except when he meets an obdurate and crafty witness or a stubborn adversary in a law



*William Kingley.*



suit, and then he can scathingly and relentlessly expose the failings and weaknesses of poor humanity.

Commencing the practice of law in Grand Rapids during an era of prolific litigation and having been always connected with a leading law firm of the city, Mr. Kingsley has been counsel in many leading and celebrated cases. He was counsel for the plaintiff in the case of Malloy vs. The Township of Walker, which determined the duty of township officers to care for highways. He was counsel for the estate in the case of Haines vs. Hayden, otherwise known as the "Jockey" Brown will case, which on account of the unusual array of legal talent, the amount involved, and the bitterness of feeling between the litigants, was one of the most celebrated cases ever tried in the Kent Circuit Court. He took a leading part in the cases of Powers vs. Hibbard and Voigt vs. Powers, which was litigation between property owners on the west side canal, and involved many intricate legal problems and extensive property interests. For years Mr. Kingsley was counsel for many lumbermen operating on the Muskegon river and has tried many cases in the Muskegon Circuit and United States Courts concerning lumber interests in Western Michigan.

He was employed as special counsel by the United States in its litigation over the site of the new Fort Brady at the Soo, and was again special counsel for the Government in a series of cases arising out of the forfeiture of Congressional land grants to railroads in the Upper Peninsula.

**Walter W. Drew** was born in Willinston, Mich., September 13, 1873. He was educated in the schools of Grand Rapids and the University of Michigan, graduating from the literary department in 1894 and from the law department in 1896; has since practiced in Grand Rapids.

**Charles B. Blair** was born in Grand Rapids January 3, 1858; attended public schools here until he was fourteen years old, then entered the Yonkers, N. Y., Military institute for one year; attended the Devoe college at Suspension Bridge, N. Y., and in 1876 he went to the Harvard University from which he graduated in 1880; studied law with his father in Grand Rapids, went to the University of Michigan in 1881 and graduated the following year. He was admitted to the bar in 1883, and has since been in practice here with the exception of four years spent in New York City.

**George Shepard Boltwood** was born on March 2, 1861, in Amherst, Mass. He attended the high school of Hartford, Conn., until his seventeenth year, then entered Yale University from which he graduated in 1882 with the degree of B. A. Entered the Yale Law school and after receiving the degree of L. L. D., in 1885, began practicing the same year in Grand Rapids in partnership with William H. Eastman, continued about six months when the firm of Boltwood, Boltwood & Boltwood was formed of the three brothers—George, Lucius and Charles—the latter being admitted to the firm in 1892. They have since practiced together.

**Harry L. Creswell** was born in the village of Calcutta, Columbiana county, Ohio, on March 14, 1864. In 1878-9 he attended the public schools in Wellsville, Ohio, and in 1880, at the age of fifteen, he came to Grand Rapids and learned the printer's trade at the office of the Saturday Evening Post, of which his brother, John A. Creswell, was editor, and by this means he obtained an education; graduated from high school and engaged in newspaper work until 1896, he was elected clerk of the Superior court, and re-elected in 1898. He immediately took up the study of law and commenced the practice upon his retirement from office, which he has since continued. In 1900 and 1902 he was elected Circuit Court Commissioner.

**Fred C. Temple** was born Sept. 3, 1857, in Grand Rapids, Mich., to Henry and Mary A. (Belknap) Temple. He was educated in the public schools and studied law in the office of Grove & Thompson; was admitted to the bar in 1881 and practiced alone until 1884 when he formed a co-partnership with George W. Thompson which still continues. He is a member of the Masonic Order, Knights of Pythias, Improved Order of Red Men, I. O. F. and M. W. A. Was married on May 14, 1895, to L. Almedia Wright.

**Henry T. Heald** was born March 25, 1876, at Montague, Mich. He was educated in the common schools of Grand Rapids and graduated from the University of Michigan in the class of 1898; completed his law studies in the office of Butterfield & Keeney, and was admitted to the bar in April, 1900. From 1902 he was associated with William J. Stewart until the latter was elected judge of the Superior court in the spring of 1905. Mr. Heald was elected to the state legislature in 1904.

**Thomas J. O'Brien** was born in Jackson county, Michigan, July 30, 1842. His father was a native of Ireland, who had migrated



*H. C. Minn*



to Jackson county in 1837. Thomas J. passed his boyhood on his father's farm. He passed through the Marshall High school, and then studied law in the office of John C. Fitzgerald who was then located at Marshall. Mr. O'Brien took a course in the law school of the Michigan University and was admitted in 1864. Soon after he became a partner of his preceptor under the firm name of Fitzgerald & O'Brien and practiced law at Marshall until 1871, he came to Grand Rapids and became a partner in the firm of Hughes & O'Brien which soon after became Hughes, O'Brien & Smiley. This firm continued until 1883. After the death of Hughes in that year, Mr. O'Brien became general counsel for the G. R. & I. R. R. Co., which position he still holds. Although a railroad attorney Mr. O'Brien has always had a general practice.

In 1896 he was a delegate at large from Michigan to the Republican National Convention which nominated Mr. McKinley. In 1905 he was appointed Minister to Denmark by President Roosevelt and soon after accompanied by his family entered upon the duties of his office in that country.

Soon after coming to Grand Rapids he married a daughter of Wm. A. Howard who for many years was a member of Congress from Detroit, but who at that time was residing in Grand Rapids. For many years their home has been on North Lafayette street between Fountain and Fulton streets. He is an attendant of the Episcopal church. Mr. O'Brien has always been more of a counsellor than a trial lawyer, yet he has never hesitated to go into the court room and try cases when duty required it. At present he is the senior member of the firm of O'Brien, Campbell & Wykes.

**Kirk E. Wicks** was born at Allegan, Mich., in 1869; graduated from the law department of the Ann Arbor college in 1892; was admitted to the bar in 1891, having read law under Judge Padgham and under Pope & Hart; was associated with the firm of Blair, Kingsley & Kleinhans, then Kingsley & Kleinhans, and since 1900 the firm has been Kingsley & Wicks. Mr. Wicks has been Referee in Bankruptcy since 1903. He came to Grand Rapids in 1892.

**Colin P. Campbell** was born in Walker township, Kent county, Mich., July 3, 1877; graduated from the University of Michigan in 1898 with the degree of L. L. B., was admitted to the bar the following year and came to Grand Rapids in 1892.



**Edgar A. Maher** was born at Wyoming, N. Y., in 1850; graduated from the University of Michigan and was admitted to the bar in April, 1874. Came to Grand Rapids the same year where he has since been in practice.

**Hugh E. Wilson** was born at Ionia, Mich., October 17, 1867; was admitted to the bar at Ionia in 1890; graduated from the University of Michigan in 1891, degree of L. L. B. Came to Grand Rapids in 1892.

**Jacob Tome Preston** was born in the town of Port Deposit, Md., on Feb. 3, 1861; obtained his education in the Maplewood institute near Philadelphia, and the Pennsylvania college at Bellefonte, Pa., then entered the literary department of the University of Michigan. In 1882, entered the law department, completing the course in two years and received the degree of L. L. B. in 1884. Came to Grand Rapids and commenced practice which he still continues.

**Will E. Ryan** was born in Adams, Mass., Nov. 18, 1867. Graduated from the University of Michigan in 1889, then practiced law in Allegan, Mich., until April, 1890, when he came to Grand Rapids, where he has since remained in practice.

**Norris J. Brown** was born in Granby, Oswego county, N. Y., April 21, 1852; came to Michigan with his parents in 1855; attended common schools and graduated from the Portland high school in 1871 when he commenced teaching school and studied law in the meantime; was admitted to the bar in 1873 at Ionia, and commenced practice. In 1889 was elected to the State legislature and in 1890 removed to Muskegon, where he was city attorney for one year; in January, 1897, came to Grand Rapids.

**Mark Norris** was born at Ypsilanti, Michigan, July 28th, 1857. He is a son of Lyman D. Norris, long an eminent member of the Michigan bar. The Norris family is of Puritan origin whose ancestors were among the early and most distinguished settlers of New England. The founder of the American branch was Nicholas Norris who settled in New Hampshire in 1642. The mother of Mr. Norris is a lineal descendant of Rev. John Cotton who came to Massachusetts in 1630. The ancestors of Mr. Norris on both sides were American soldiers in the Revolutionary war.

Mark Norris was educated in the public schools at Ypsilanti, at DeVeaux College, Suspension Bridge, New York, and the Michigan University. He was graduated from the Literary



*Mark Morris*



Department in 1879 and from the Law Department of the University in 1882. The year following his graduation from the Literary Department and his vacation he had studied law in his father's office. When he was graduated from the Law Department his father was the orator who delivered the annual address to the law graduates.

Mark Norris after finishing his legal studies at the University returned to his home in Grand Rapids and continued his studies with his father and acted as clerk in the law offices of Norris & Uhl. In 1885 he was admitted as a partner in the firm. In 1887 Mr. Uhl withdrew and the firm of Norris & Norris was formed and continued until 1894 when the firm was dissolved by the death of Lyman D. Norris. Mr. Mark Norris is now a member of the firm of Crane & Norris, his partner being Albert Crane.

From 1895 to 1899 Mr. Norris was a member of the State Board of Law Examiners for Michigan. In 1901-02 he was President of the State Bar Association.

In politics Mr. Norris is a Democrat, belonging to the Sound Money or Gold wing of the party and believing in the doctrine of free trade.

He is a member of the Swedenborgian Church.

Mr. Norris is a member of all the Masonic bodies in Grand Rapids and takes a deep interest in Masonry. He is a past member of York Lodge and has been honored by many official positions in other Masonic bodies.

September 3rd, 1885, Mr. Norris married Cornella Abbott. They have three children, a son and two daughters.

Mr. Norris is fond of outdoor sport and is an enthusiastic hunter and fisherman. Mr. Norris is authority upon Insurance and Corporation law and is counsel and attorney for many insurance companies and other corporations. He was "to the manner born" in practicing law, and fulfills the traditions of the profession by "working hard and living well."

**William B. Brown** was born in Cascade township, Kent county, Mich., July 1, 1865. He was educated in the common schools and at the Northern Indiana Normal school at Valparaiso. Began teaching in 1882 and in 1884 returned to Valparaiso for six months after which he resumed teaching in Kent county until 1889, then entered Olivet college from which he graduated in

1892. Studied law and was admitted to the bar at Grand Rapids on May 8, 1895; was elected Circuit Court Commissioner the following year and was re-elected in 1898. In 1900 he was elected prosecuting attorney and re-elected in 1902 and 1904. In 1901 he formed a partnership with Charles E. Ward.

**George Clapperton** was born July 10, 1857, in Ontario, Canada. He was educated at the Academy at Otsego, Mich., for two years; came to Grand Rapids and studied law in the office of Taggart & Dennison and was admitted to the bar in 1886 and commenced practice. He is now a partner of Charles M. Owen under the firm name of Clapperton & Owen.

**William A. Connell** was born May 13, 1859, at Fennville, Mich., Graduated from the Michigan University in 1885, and came to Grand Rapids to practice in 1891.

**Emil A. Dapper**, born in New York City Feb. 21, 1844. After serving a time in the war he was managing clerk in a law office in New York City from 1865 to 1869 when he came to Grand Rapids; studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1871, where he still remains in practice.

**Albin W. Norblad** was born in New York on March 19, 1881; studied law at the Northwestern University of Chicago and was admitted to the bar at Lansing, Mich., April 21, 1905.

**Don E. Minor** was born in Fayette county, Pa., May 1st, 1868; graduated from law department of the Michigan University in 1896 degree of L. L. B. Came to Grand Rapids where he has since been in practice.

**Charles Edward Temple**, born at White Pigeon, Mich., July 13, 1858; came to Grand Rapids in 1872; in 1882 graduated from the law department of the Michigan University degree of L. L. B. Went to Ohio and was admitted to the bar in 1888, returned to Grand Rapids the same year.

**Lawrence E. Carroll** was born at Lamont, Mich., in 1853; studied law here and was admitted to the bar in 1873; where he has since been in practice. He is now a member of the firm of Carroll & Nichols.

**Arthur Carter Denison** was born in Paris township, Kent County, Michigan, November 10th, 1861. His parents were Julius C. Denison and Cornelia C. Denison. He was educated in the public schools of Grand Rapids and was graduated from the High School in 1878. In May, 1879, he entered the law



*A. C. Addison.*



offices of Taggart, Stone & Earle as office boy and remained there as student and clerk until January 1, 1886, with the intermission of two years in the Law Department of the University of Michigan, receiving the usual LL. B. in the class of 1883 and being admitted in that year. January 1, 1886, he became a member of the firm of Taggart & Denison, which continued until 1893, when the firm became Taggart, Knappen & Denison, which continued until 1899, when Mr. Knappen withdrew and the firm again became Taggart & Denison. In November, 1900, the firm became Taggart, Denison & Wilson, which still continues. For many years the firm has been considerably engaged in patent litigation and patent business, much of which has been under the personal charge of Mr. Denison, who has for some years given approximately half his time to patent cases and travels extensively in caring for the business. He has taken active part in patent and other litigation in the First, Second, Third, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Federal Judicial Circuits. He is local attorney for the Michigan Central Railroad Co. He has been Treasurer of the State Bar Association for many years and in 1904 was President of the Grand Rapids Bar Association. His only approach to judicial office was an appointment as Special Master, by Judge Taft, in the Pewabic Mine case from the Upper Peninsula.

From 1900 to 1904 he was a member of the Board of Education and during the last year of his membership he was its President. He has been a director of Board of Trade since 1900.

In politics he is a Republican. He attends the Park Congregational Church, but is not a member. For social intercourse he is a member of Peninsula Club and the Kent County Club. In business he is a director and officer in several industrial institutions.

In 1886 he married Miss Susie Goodrich, who died in May, 1896, leaving three sons, all of whom are now living. In 1898 he married Miss Julia Barlow. His home is on Lyon street.

Mr. Denison is wholly a Kent County product, and his successful career illustrates the opportunities of the Kent County bar for a young lawyer devoted to his profession who has suavity, perseverance, industry, and business capacity.

**James T. McAllister** was born in Detroit, Mich., in 1870; studied law at Read City, Mich., and was admitted to the bar at Baldwin,



in 1891; came to Grand Rapids the same year where he has since practiced, and is now associated with Wm. F. McKnight under the firm name of McKnight & McAllister.

**Ernest L. Bullen** was born in Aurelius township, Ingham county, Mich., March 10, 1868, to James T. and Jennie E. Hulse Bullen. He was raised on a farm; attended the Mason high school, the Agricultural college at Lansing, and was graduated from the law department of the Michigan University in 1896; he was admitted to the bar in 1895 and commenced practice at Grand Rapids in 1896. Mr. Bullen is a Democrat in politics.

**Sybrant Wesselius** was born in Grand Rapids on June 8, 1859, to Charles and Dina Wesselius. He was educated first in the public schools of this place, graduated from the Kalamazoo college in 1883 in the degree of A. B., studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1885, and has since carried on a general practice. Was State senator 1889-'90, and Railway Commissioner 1897 to 1899.

**Horton H. Drury** was born May 25, 1843, at Middlebury, Vt. Graduated from the Michigan University in the class of 1867 with the degree of A. B., supplemented by degree of A. M. in 1870. Was admitted to the bar in Fond du Lac in 1871; came to Grand Rapids in 1875 where he has since practiced.

**William Wisner Taylor** was born in Ontario county, N. Y., April 25, 1843; graduated from the Hobart college of New York in 1865 and from the Columbia college of law, New York City, when he was admitted to the bar in 1867. Came to Grand Rapids in 1869 where he has since remained.

**Peter J. Danhof** was born in Grand Haven, Mich., in 1864; graduated from the University of Michigan in 1888 when he was admitted to the bar.

**James J. Danhof**, born Feb. 17, 1858, at Grand Haven, Mich. Graduated from the Michigan University in 1893, was admitted and came to Grand Rapids same year.

**Martin Henry Carmody** was born in Grand Rapids township, January 23, 1872; graduated from the Michigan University and was admitted to the bar in 1901.

**Wesley W. Hyde** was born at Armada, Macomb County, Michigan. He is a son of Charles Goodell Hyde. His mother is Eliza Ann (Ray) Hyde. His parents live at Rockford, Michigan. In March, 1904, they celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of their marriage. The Hydes are of English ancestry.



*Malley M. Hyde*



In 1860 Mr. Hyde removed with his parents to Rockford, Kent County, Michigan, then called Laphamville.

Mr. Hyde was educated in the village schools at Rockford and studied law in his father's office. In August, 1875, he was appointed Deputy County Clerk under Hobart H. Chipman who died in September, 1876. Mr. Hyde was appointed County Clerk for the remainder of Mr. Chipman's term. He remained in the Clerk's office until 1880. While he was in the Clerk's office he continued his study of the law and September 8th, 1877, was admitted to the bar. He began practice at Grand Rapids, in partnership with his father, under the firm name of C. G. & W. W. Hyde. Later he succeeded Hon. Robert M. Montgomery as Assistant United States Attorney under Mr. M. C. Burch and continued in that capacity under Judge John W. Stone until 1885, when he and Judge Stone opened an office in the Luce Block. In 1887 Judge Stone removed to Houghton, Michigan, and Mr. Hyde formed a partnership with J. Edward Earle, under the firm name of Earle & Hyde. Upon Mr. Edwin F. Uhl's retirement from public life (Ambassador to Germany) he returned to Grand Rapids and entered into partnership with Mr. Hyde and Mr. Earle, the firm name being Uhl, Hyde & Earle. In 1900 Mr. Thornton came into the firm and Mr. Uhl retired, and since that time the style has been Hyde, Earle & Thornton.

In August, 1899, Mr. Hyde was appointed a member of the State Board of Law Examiners and elected its Secretary. He was reappointed last year and continues to act as Secretary of the board.

In 1903 he was appointed by Governor Bliss a member of the Michigan Commission on Uniform Legislation.

He is a member of the American and State Bar Associations.

Mr. Hyde has been engaged in some leading and important cases, among which are the following: Thum vs. Tloczynski, a leading case upon Trade Secrets; Ex-parte Frazee, popularly known as the Salvation Army case, involving the right to parade the streets; Church vs. Anti-Kalsomine Co., the trial of which lasted thirteen weeks; Vanderlip vs. City of Grand Rapids, a leading case denying the right of municipality to trespass on private property.

Upon the breaking out of the "Water Scandal" Mr. Hyde

was retained as Special Counsel for the people and assisted in the trial of the following cases growing out of that matter: People vs. Salisbury; People vs. Taylor; People vs. McGarry; People vs. Nichols. In all of these cases except People vs. Nichols he was successful.

In politics Mr. Hyde was a Republican until 1884, since which time he has been a Gold Democrat.

In 1901 he was prime mover in organizing the Civic Club of Grand Rapids and has been its President since.

In March, 1875, Mr. Hyde married Mary E. Powell, daughter of the late William Powell of Rockford. They have four children, Fritz Carlton, Ruth Agner, Mark Powell and Dorothy. Their home is on East Fulton street.

Mr. Hyde was raised a Methodist but for years has been a member of All Soul's Church, a church without a creed. He has a choice private library and is a reader of good books. He is a member of the Kent Country Club and the Grand Rapids Curling Club.

**George Richard Hollway** was born at Middlesex, England, in 1870; came to Grand Rapids in 1878, studied law and was admitted in 1895.

**Fred P. Geib** was born in Gaines township, Kent county, Michigan, in 1877; studied law at the Michigan University and was admitted in June, 1904.

**Henry M. Wallace** was born at Hartland, Livingston county, Mich. Graduated from the University of Michigan. Was admitted to the bar in 1896.

**Harry E. Rodgers** was born at Milo, Maine, in 1879; studied at the Michigan University from which he graduated in 1901 and was admitted to the bar.

**Frank A. Rodgers** was born at Sandwich, Mass., in 1849; studied law in Maine where he was admitted to the bar September 11, 1879; came to Corunna, Mich., in 1880, where he was also admitted to the bar but soon came to Grand Rapids to practice

**Benn M. Corwin** was born in Georgetown township, Ottawa county, Mich., September 20, 1865; studied law and was admitted January 13, 1894, and has since practiced in Grand Rapids.

**Charles A. Watt** was born in Pittsfield, Mass., May 28, 1859; came to Grand Rapids in 1869; in 1881 entered the law office of

Peter Doran and was admitted in 1884; engaged in general practice and was for eight years prior to 1903 Justice of the Peace.

**John W. Powers** was born November 19, 1869, at Louisville, N. Y.; graduated from the law department of the Michigan University in 1894, then came to Grand Rapids where he has since been in practice; was Circuit Court Commissioner four years.

**Luther V. Moulton** was born September 27, 1843, in Howard township, Cass county, Mich. Came to Grand Rapids in 1875; studied law and was admitted in 1890.

**Charles G. Turner** was born at St. Albans, Vt., in 1863; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice in Grand Rapids in 1900 where he has since remained.

**William J. Landman** was born July 23, 1873, in Boston, Mass.; graduated from the law department of Michigan University in 1894, was admitted and has since been in practice in Grand Rapids.

**William E. Grove** was born in Geneva, N. Y., November 27, 1833. Came to Grand Rapids in 1857; studied law with John T. Holmes, first Judge of Superior Court, was admitted in March, 1859. Has since practiced steadily in Grand Rapids excepting five years in Kansas. Was Justice of Peace in 2nd Ward for four years; elected Circuit Judge in 1888; re-elected in 1893; held office two terms—twelve years, retiring from the bench December 31, 1899. Was Prosecuting Attorney for Woodson county, Kansas, four years.

**Joseph Kirwin** was born at Ingersoll, Ontario, in April, 1870. Attended University of Michigan from which he graduated in 1892; was admitted to the bar and came to Grand Rapids same year; located in the office of Turner & Carroll, later becoming a member of the firm.

**Henry F. McCormick** was born in Niagara county, N. Y.; came to Grand Rapids and was admitted to the bar in 1889, after a course of study in the office of Thompson & Temple. Mr. McCormick is a Democrat in politics; was a member of the Legislature one term, Supervisor for the township of Grand Rapids for ten years and Register of Deeds for Kent county six years.

**George C. Brown** was born at Muskegon, Mich. After finishing the common schools he attended college at Valparaiso, Ind., later graduating from the University of Michigan in 1898, when he was admitted to the bar.

**Hadley H. Walch** was born in Grand Rapids and admitted to the bar in 1896.

**Emanuel J. Doyle** was born in Grattan township, Mich., March 5, 1865. After finishing at the common schools of his township he attended St. Vincent college at Cape Girardeau, Mo., later graduating from the Niagara University of New York in 1890. He also spent some time at Michigan University, completing his law course in Grand Rapids where he was admitted to the bar in 1892. Was Police Magistrate for four years.

**Frank I. Blake** was born at Saugatuck, Mich., Feb. 1, 1865. Graduated from Michigan University in 1888. Commenced practice in Grand Rapids in 1898.

**Nathan P. Allen**, son of Daniel L. and Hannah Lockwood Allen, was born in Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 23, 1830; moved from Rochester to Romeo, Mich., at the age of three years where he attended the common schools, afterward graduating from the academy at Disco, Mich. During his years from seventeen to twenty-four he followed the carpenter's trade; moved to Fenton, Mich., and engaged in general merchandise which he continued a number of years, when he came to Grand Rapids where he studied law, under difficulties—working at the same time—finally entering the office of Frank Kuth and was admitted to the bar in 1877. He then went to Chicago where he practiced law until 1885 and returned to Grand Rapids where he has since remained in active practice—defending some fifty-four murder cases. Mr. Allen is a Republican in politics and has one son.

**William H. Eastman** was born in England in 1856, to William and Elizabeth Eastman. Came to Michigan in 1874; worked in the mines of the Upper Peninsula for three years; attended the State Normal School and later the University of Michigan, graduating in 1884; came to Grand Rapids in 1884; was assistant prosecuting attorney three years and Chief of Police the next four years. Mr. Eastman is a Mason, K. of P., and member of both the Grand Rapids and State Bar Associations.

**Jacob Kleinhans** was born in Belvidere, New Jersey, January 19, 1845. His parents were David W. Kleinhans and Elizabeth Winters Kleinhans. Mr. Kleinhans was educated in the schools of his native town. He was graduated from the High School of Belvidere and studied law in the office of P. B. Kennedy of Belvidere. In 1867 Mr. Kleinhans was admitted to practice



*Jacob Kleinkauf.*





before the Supreme Court of New Jersey. The same year he came to Grand Rapids and became a partner in the firm of Griswold, Eggleston & Kleinhans, which afterwards became Eggleston & Kleinhans. He then became a member of the firm of Blair, Kingsley & Kleinhans, which at the death of Mr. Blair became Kingsley & Kleinhans. In 1900 he formed a partnership with L. E. Knappen, under the firm name of Knappen & Kleinhans, which afterwards became Knappen, Kleinhans & Knappen.

Mr. Kleinhans is a Republican in politics but has never been a candidate for office, or held any political positions.

On February 25, 1870, he was married to Miss Emma Miller of Grand Rapids. Their home is on Jefferson avenue.

For many years Mr. Kleinhans has been legal counsel in many important business interests. He was attorney for the estates in the Jockey Brown will case, in the Porter Hackley will case, and in the McNamara will case. He was attorney in the case of Church vs. Anti-Kalsomine Co., and in the case of Ruggles vs. Buckley. Large money interests were involved in all these cases.

Mr. Kleinhans has devoted his entire life and all his energies to practicing law. He has never done anything else. His legal opinions command the respect of courts and his services are sought after by business interests.

**Thomas P. Bradfield** was born at Copper Falls Mine, Mich., in 1871; graduated from the literary department of Michigan University in 1894 and from the law department in 1895 when he was admitted to the bar.

**Alfred H. Hunt** was born in Grand Rapids in 1870; graduated from the Michigan University in 1896 and admitted to the bar. After spending two years in Detroit, came to Grand Rapids and is now Referee in Bankruptcy.

**Francis A. Stace** was born in Lewes, County of Sussex, England, in 1834. Came to Canada in 1851, and to Marshall, Mich., in 1859, where he studied law and was admitted in 1862; after practicing there for some twenty-five years, came to Grand Rapids in 1887 where he has since remained in practice.

**Claude R. Buchanan** was born in Grand Rapids October 17, 1858; graduated from the University of Michigan; degree of A. B. in 1881; studied law in Grand Rapids and was admitted to the bar in December, 1888.

**Charles F. Hext** was born in Ada township, Kent county, Mich., in 1879; studied law in Grand Rapids and was admitted in 1901.

**James A. Lombard** was born in Casco township, Cumberland county, Maine, in 1861; graduated from the Bridgeton Academy in Maine, in 1881, and from the University of Michigan in 1883; commenced practicing law in Grand Rapids in 1891.

**James E. McBride** was born at Woodville, Sandusky county, Ohio, November 16, 1847; graduated from the Scientific department of Notre Dame, in June, 1868, and from the Michigan University in 1870; was admitted to the bar in Toledo, Ohio, in April, 1870; came to Grand Rapids in June, 1872, where he has since been in practice, and was the first police magistrate of Grand Rapids from 1874 to 1878.

**Hiram N. Averill** was born at Rochester, N. Y., October 17, 1844; came to Allegan, Mich., in 1852, read law and was admitted to the bar in 1865; came to Grand Rapids in 1888.

**Andrew W. Johnston** was born in Scotland, February 6, 1849, Attended high school at Edinburgh and Edinburgh University. Was admitted to the bar in Grand Rapids where he has practiced fifteen years.

**Henry Brown Fallass** was born at Fallassburg, Mich., May 13, 1846. Graduated from Michigan University and admitted in 1875 in Grand Rapids. Has been a member of the Board of Education.

**Philip H. Travis** was born in 1865; admitted to the bar in 1890.

**John C. Loucks** was born in Grand Rapids in 1877; graduated from University of Michigan in 1901, and admitted to the bar.

**Elvin Swarthout** was born October 5, 1864; was admitted to the bar and has practiced law in Grand Rapids since 1887.

**Charles W. Boltwood** was born at Washington, D. C., 1867; admitted to the bar in Connecticut in 1893 and in Grand Rapids the same year, where he has since practiced.

**Mc George Bundy** was born in 1855 at Oxford, N. Y.; graduated from Amherst college in 1876; admitted at Albany in 1878, at Saratoga in 1879, and Grand Rapids in 1881 where he is now practicing.

**John H. Tatem** was born in Rhode Island, in 1833. His mother, Alice A. King Tatem, was born in Rhode Island, and his father, Rev. Henry Tatem, in Salem, Mass.

John was educated in the common schools of Rhode Island and



*John H. Tatem*



later entered the law department of the University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1864; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice at Adrian, Mich., which he continued for about seven years. He then moved to Greenville, Mich., where he lived for the next seventeen years, at the same time practicing in the Grand Rapids courts, and finally moved here in 1888, where he is still conducting a law business.

In the early days of lumbering Mr. Tatem was attorney for the mill owners on Flat River vs. the Booming Company, in the noted litigation involving the right of the various parties in the use of said river.

He was associated with the Nugent litigation for nine years, which was nine times before the Supreme Court. He was attorney for R. C. Luce, and associate counsel for the N. & M. Friedman & Co., in their extended legal contest with the combined Fire Insurance Companies.

For twenty years was Supreme Advocate of the order of Royal Templars.

For forty-one years Mr. Tatem has been in the active practice of his profession.

In politics Mr. Tatem has always been identified with the Democratic and Prohibition parties; is a member of the Masonic Order, having joined in 1854; was a pioneer in the introduction of adoptive masonry, and instituted the Grand Lodges of the Eastern Star degrees in Michigan and Indiana.

He was married in Oakland County, Mich., in 1854, to Miss Jennie McCornac. Mrs. Tatem died in 1888, and he was remarried in 1892, to Miss Theresa Thome, of Grand Rapids.

**Benjamin P. Merrick** was born at Holyoke, Mass., March 19, 1877; admitted to the bar in 1903; came to Grand Rapids to practice in 1904.

**Charles O. Smedley** was born December 27, 1856, at Massillon, Ohio; graduated from the law department of Michigan University in 1885 and commenced practice in Grand Rapids the same year. He is now the senior member of the firm of Smedley & Corwin.

**Horace T. Barnaby, Jr.**, was born at North Star, Gratiot county, Michigan, in 1870; graduated from the law department of Michigan University in 1902. Has since practiced in Grand Rapids.

**Erwin C. Watkins** was born at Covington, N. Y., January 15, 1839; studied law in the office of Miller & Wilson and Lucius

Patterson of Grand Rapids; was admitted to the bar in 1865 and immediately commenced practice—the firm name being now—1905—Watkins & Watkins.

**John Dalton** was born in Naugatuck, Conn., in 1878; graduated from the law department of the Michigan University in 1902.

**James H. McKee** was born at Arlington, Vt., in 1823; studied law in New York City where he was admitted in 1848; came to Grand Rapids in 1852, was admitted to the bar and practiced here for about thirty years. Is now retired.

**Leonard D. Verdier** was born at Grand Rapids October 19, 1877. Graduated from the literary department of Michigan University in 1899 and from the law department in 1901 and was admitted to the bar.

**Frank L. Carpenter** was born in Saratoga county, N. Y., November, 1854. Graduated from the Agricultural college at Lansing in 1873; from Ann Arbor in 1878 and came to Grand Rapids in 1880 to practice.

**Mark M. Powers** was born in Scott, Courtland county, N. Y., in 1845; came to Grand Rapids in 1868; took a course of law at the Michigan University; returned to Grand Rapids and was admitted in 1869 to practice.

**Clark H. Gleason** was born at Pitcher, N. Y., January 27, 1847. Graduated from the literary department of the Michigan University in 1873 and from the law department in 1875 when he came to Grand Rapids and commenced practice.

**Arthur Lowell** was born in Watertown township, Clinton county, Mich., April 6, 1852; graduated from the Agricultural college at Lansing in 1874; studied law in Clinton county and was admitted to the bar at St. Johns, Mich., in 1879; came to Grand Rapids in 1886; practiced for a time at Coopersville, but since 1894 has been in Grand Rapids.

**Joseph Renihan** was born in Kent county, Mich., in 1864; graduated from the law department of Michigan university in 1893 and commenced practice at Grand Rapids in 1895.

**Maurice M. Houseman**, eldest son of Joseph and Henrietta Houseman, of this city, was born in Grand Rapids, November 17, 1859, and had resided here almost continuously to the time of his death, June 23, 1903. He was educated in the public schools of this city and was graduated from the high school with the class of 1877. He took the literary and law course at the University



*William M. Houseman*





of Michigan, graduating with the class of 1881. He immediately entered upon the practice of his profession here, which profession he followed to the time of his final illness, though being identified with other business enterprises. As soon as he was admitted, he was appointed Assistant Prosecuting Attorney. He was at different times a member of the law firms of Burlingame & Houseman and of Rutherford & Houseman, also of Houseman & Eliel, and Cowen & Houseman of Chicago. He moved to Chicago in March, 1896, and practiced there for a number of years, returning to this city in the Spring of 1902. He was Vice-President of the Houseman & Jones Clothing Company, of which his father, Joseph Houseman, is the senior member, and his surviving brother also has a large interest.

He was married in 1883 to Miss Eleanor Hart of this city and had three children, the second son, Julius, dying when a young child. Mrs. Houseman died November 14, 1898.

He had always been prominent in political and fraternal circles here and had been an unswerving Democrat all his life, acting with his party no matter what line of policy the party might follow. He was high in the councils of his party, both locally and in the state, and was a member of the state central committee at the time of his death.

In fraternal work he was a member of Doric Lodge, F. & A. M.; Grand Rapids Lodge, B. P. O. E.; Eureka Lodge, K. of P.; Maccabees, Royal Arcanum, and the Independent Order of Foresters. He had also been president of the Jewish of B'nai Brith, both locally and of the national organization, and was a member of the general committee of the society when he died.

Mr. Houseman was noted as a public speaker and was held in esteem by a large circle of acquaintances, who were his sincere friends irrespective of politics or creed.

Of a kindly heart and a courageous nature, he was too great to stoop to little things, and too brave to do injustice to any. Maurice Houseman will be remembered not for any faults, however, but for the possession of and exercise of many virtues which won for him the admiration of manly men as well as lasting friendships.

**J. Byron Judkins** was born at Coldwater, Ohio, January 17, 1851; was educated in the schools of Celina, Ohio, and Liber college, Indiana; read law in Big Rapids, Mich., with Nottingham &

Murdock and was admitted in January, 1874, at Big Rapids. He was appointed judge on March 12, 1880, and elected in the fall of the same year to fill a vacancy; then re-elected in 1881 for a full term and again in 1887, serving in all fourteen years as judge of the Nineteenth Judicial circuit; came to Grand Rapids January 1, 1894, where he has since remained in active practice.

**Sylvester W. Barker** was born at Syracuse, N. Y., December 24, 1870; graduated from the law department of the University of Michigan in 1893; was admitted to the bar and has practiced in Grand Rapids since 1897.

**John W. Holcomb** was born in New York state; went to Canada when very young and after finishing common school, graduated from the Toronto university with the degrees of A. B., A. M. and LL. B. in 1862; went to New York in 1863; practiced until 1876; came to Grand Rapids and was admitted to the bar where he has since practiced.

**Alfred Wolcott** was born in Summit Co., Ohio, March 17, 1858, to Alfred and Mary Ann (Scoville) Wolcott. His grandfather was an early settler of Summit County, having located there as a Government Surveyor, and his father was born in Summit County and spent his entire life there. Alfred, Jr., attended the country schools of his native county until fifteen years of age, after which he taught school a short time. At the age of sixteen he entered the preparatory department of the Western Reserve College at Hudson, Ohio, graduating in June, 1880, with the degree of B. A. He then went to Cincinnati where he read law for one year in the office of E. P. Bradstreet. He came to Grand Rapids in 1882 and entered the law office of Stuart & Sweet where he completed his studies and was admitted to the bar in May, 1883. Practicing alone until 1885 he then formed a partnership with H. H. Drury. He was elected Circuit Commissioner in 1888, serving as such two years; in 1892 he was elected prosecuting attorney and re-elected in 1894. The partnership with Mr. Drury was dissolved in 1892 and Mr. Wolcott joined Charles E. Ward under the firm name of Wolcott & Ward, which continued until Mr. Wolcott was elected Judge of the Circuit Court in 1899. He became Judge of the Circuit Court on January 1st, 1900, and in 1905 was re-elected without opposition to the bench for another



*Cecilia Wolcott.*





*Charles Chandler.*



term of six years. Judge Wolcott has a judicial manner and temperament and commands the respect of all classes.

He was married October 21, 1885, at Akron, Ohio, to Miss Carrie B. Hawk. They have two daughters and their home is on Lyon street.

**Orley C. Granger** was born in Webster, N. Y., April 17, 1874; came to Michigan and studied law in the office of Turner & Carroll of Grand Rapids and was admitted April 17, 1895; was elected Justice of the Peace April 4, 1904, for four years.

**Walter C. Lee** was born October 19, 1876, at Oxford, N. Y. Graduated from Yale college in 1899, and from the law department of the Michigan University in 1904; now practicing in Grand Rapids.

**Elizabeth Eaglesfield** was born June 29, 1853, in Clay county, Indiana. She was educated in the high school at Terre Haute, Ind., and graduated from the literary department of the University of Michigan in 1876, and from the law department in 1878. Was the first woman admitted to the bar in Indiana. Came to Grand Rapids to reside in 1886, and with the exception of two years' absence, has practiced here continuously ever since.

**Charles Chandler** was born at Clinton, Mich., April 16, 1838; his father was Charles Chandler, born in 1805; graduated from the Hamilton College at Clinton, N. Y., in 1825, and in 1833 married Miss Eliza Wooster, mother of the subject of this sketch. The following year they came to Clinton, Mich., and settled on a farm in Lenawee county, where Mr. Chandler finally became interested in politics and was appointed Postmaster of Clinton and held the position for twenty years. He died on March 10, 1871.

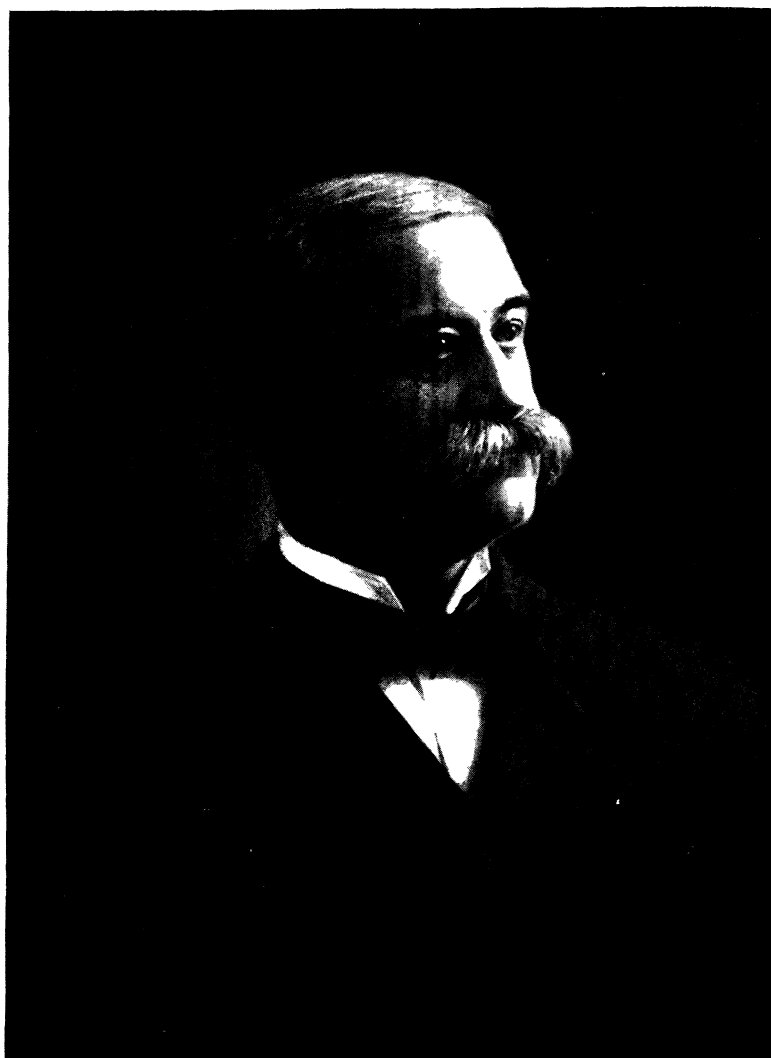
Charles, Jr., worked on the farm, attending the common schools until eighteen years of age; in the fall of 1859 he entered the sophomore class at the University of Ann Arbor, from which he graduated in 1862, degree of A. B., and subsequently received from the same institution the degree of A. M. After teaching one year he was appointed Superintendent of the union schools at Grand Haven, Mich., where he taught two years; in 1865 he resigned this position to accept a similar one at Hastings, where he remained one year, when he became principal of the grammar schools of Grand Rapids in 1866; held this position until 1877, when he resigned to take up the study of law



at Ann Arbor University, from which he graduated with the degree of LL. B. in 1879, then entered the law office of J. C. Fitzgerald, of Grand Rapids, where he remained until 1893, when he opened an office and started in business for himself. He was active in Republican politics, but generally declined political offices.

Mr. Chandler's death occurred very suddenly on the 9th day of January, 1905, while questioning a witness in the Probate court, his relatives being unable to reach his side before he had expired. Mrs. Chandler, to whom he was married in 1865, still survives him.

**Mitchell J. Smiley**, although at the present time a resident of Chicago, has long been intimately associated with the courts of Michigan in which for many years he was a successful practitioner. He was born in South Avon, New York, May 2, 1841, and ten years later moved with his parents to Van Buren County, Michigan, where they settled on a farm. At the age of seventeen, he became a student of Kalamazoo college, paying his expenses by teaching school a part of each year. In 1860 he began the study of law under the direction of N. A. Balch, of Kalamazoo, who was then at the height of a successful career; two years later Mr. Smiley was admitted to the bar and at once entered into partnership with his preceptor which was continued for ten years when the firm dissolved and Mr. Smiley entered into co-partnership with Messrs. Hughes and O'Brien, of Grand Rapids, where he removed in 1872. Upon the death of Mr. Hughes in 1883, Mr. Smiley organized the firm of Smiley & Earle, which was dissolved in 1891 by the death of Mr. Earle. He next formed a partnership with William Alden Smith and Frederick W. Stevens which continued until February, 1895, when this also was dissolved and Mr. Smiley removed to Chicago on account of the greater facilities afforded there for the executive management of corporations in another state. Prior to that time he had acquired large interests in Wisconsin and had been elected president of several corporations, chief of which was the Land, Log & Lumber Company of Milwaukee. Other important ones were the West Shore Lumber Co., of Racine and the Penobscot Lumber & Dock Co., of Milwaukee. In Chicago he associated himself with Mr. Thomas C. Clark in the firm of Smiley & Clark for a general law practice which is carried on in addition to his other corporate and business inter-



*Mitchell J. Smiley.*



ests. The firm are now counsel in Chicago for the Pere Marquette, C. H. & D. Ry. system. For twenty-five years Mr. Smiley was singularly devoted to the law and it is only in recent years that business affairs have been permitted to divide his allegiance. He was for a long time rated as one of the leaders of the bar of Michigan, being connected with many important cases; his reputation is not due to any special effort in one prominent case, but rather to thoroughness in every case with which he was connected—not confined to particular merit in some single branch of professional work as is so often the case with distinguished lawyers. In his career it can hardly be said that he excelled any more in any one branch of law than in another, and to use a common expression, he is an all 'round good lawyer. For many years a large portion of his practice came to him through the desire of brother attorneys to have his assistance in the trial of their cases before juries and in legal and equitable proceedings before the courts; he was trial lawyer for the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Co., and for some time acted as its general counsel; he was the local attorney for the Chicago & West Michigan R. R. Co., and Detroit, Lansing & Northern R. R. Co. before they became merged in the Pere Marquette system, and the Detroit, Grand Haven & Milwaukee R. R. Co. before it became a part of the Grand Trunk system, trying many cases for all of them in Kent and other counties of Michigan. He is general counsel for the Manistee & North Eastern Ry. Co., and has at times been retained in important matters of the Pennsylvania Company. Among the many important cases argued by him were those known as the Lake Shore Railroad Bond cases, and the Great Western Insurance Company cases, in all of which he was victorious. Lawyers of Michigan are all familiar with the famous Perrin cases and the "Jockey Brown" will case in all of which Mr. Smiley was counsel. In *Attorney General vs. Ruggles* and *Brown vs. Brown*, many complicated land titles were settled by the Supreme court of Michigan on lines laid down by him in his briefs and arguments before that court.

In 1874 Mr. Smiley was married to Miss Florence M. Eitts, of Portsmouth, N. H., and they are the parents of two children—Edmund C., now with his father in Chicago, and Louise B., a young lady. Mrs. Smiley has always occupied a high position in society and is especially well known in Grand Rapids for her work in literary and musical circles.

**Lyman D. Norris** was born in Genesee county, New York, May 4, 1823, and died at his home in Grand Rapids, January 6, 1894. His father, Mark Norris, was a native of Vermont, but settled in New York State in 1820, where he married Roecena Vail. Mark Norris migrated to Michigan in 1827 and settled where now is the City of Ypsilanti. He became a manufacturer and erected the first mills in Michigan for manufacturing woolen cloth. He was a successful business man and gave his only son, Lyman Decatur Norris, the best educational advantages to be obtained.

In boyhood Lyman D. attended the schools of Ypsilanti, but was prepared for college in a Presbyterian school at Marshall, which was called "Michigan College." He entered the first class of the University of Michigan when it opened in 1841. In his junior year there was a competitive examination for selecting a student from the Michigan University to go to Yale. L. D. Norris was chosen and spent his Senior year at Yale from which he was graduated in 1845. He at once returned to Ann Arbor and was also graduated the same year from the University of Michigan with the class in which he had entered that institution.

After his double graduation he studied law in the office of Alexander D. Fraser of Detroit, and was admitted in 1847. In 1848 he went to St. Louis, Missouri, to practice law. Two years later he visited Europe on legal business and attended a course of lectures on civil law at Heidelberg. While in St. Louis he was attorney for the Emerson estate in the case brought by Dred Scott, the slave who sued for his freedom and whose case in the Supreme court of the United States afterwards made legal and political history for the nation. While in St. Louis Mr. Norris was also editor and part owner of the St. Louis Times, which was then the leading Democratic newspaper of the Mississippi Valley. In 1854 he returned to Ypsilanti where for seventeen years he practiced law and managed the business of his father's estate.

In 1871 he came to Grand Rapids and formed a partnership with James Blair under the firm name of Norris & Blair, the firm afterwards became Norris, Blair & Kingsley, and then Norris, Blair & Stone. In 1875 he formed a partnership with Edwin F. Uhl which continued until 1887 when the firm of Norris & Norris was formed, which continued until the death of L. D. Norris.

In politics Mr. Norris was a Democrat. In 1867 he was a member of the State Constitutional convention. In 1869 he was elected State Senator. In 1875 he was the nominee of his party for Jus-



*Lyman D. Norris*



tice of the Supreme Court. He was a polished orator. In 1882 he delivered the commencement address before the graduating Law class of the Michigan University of which his son Mark was a member. In 1883 L. D. Norris was appointed a regent of the University of Michigan.

In November, 1885, he married Lucy Alsop of Middletown, Connecticut. They had two children, Mark Norris, now a practicing attorney; and Maria W. Norris, now a practicing physician. The Norris home is upon North Prospect street.

Mr. Norris was an able lawyer and had an extended and lucrative practice. He appeared in all courts and managed all sorts of litigation, but in his later years he was retained by many insurance companies and was an authority on insurance law. He was a man of marked integrity and impressive bearing, strict integrity and upright character. He left the imprint of his personality upon his profession and the community in which he lived.

**William Alden Smith** was born in Dowagiac, Cass County, Mich., May 12, 1859, where he attended school until the age of twelve when his family removed to Grand Rapids. In this city he attended school, sold popcorn, was a newsboy, messenger boy, and in 1879 was a page in the house of representatives at Lansing.

He studied law in the office of Burch & Montgomery and was admitted in 1882. He was alone in practice for a time and then became associated with Frederick W. Stevens. The firm afterwards became Smiley, Smith & Stevens. Mr. Smith was attorney for the Detroit Lansing & Northern Railroad Company when it built its first line from Grand Ledge to Grand Rapids, and continued its attorney after the road was completed. He also became attorney for the Chicago & West Michigan. While in practice Mr. Smith became an expert on railroad law and finance. Mr. Smith is a Republican. From 1887 to 1891 he was State Game and Fish Warden. In 1894 he was elected to Congress from the Fifth Congressional District and has been re-elected each term since that date. In public life he has a national reputation as an orator and has spoken in all parts of the country upon political and economic topics.

In 1885 he was married to Miss Nana Osterhout of Grand Rapids. They have one son, William Alden, Jr. Their home is at the corner of South College avenue and Logan street.

Few men attain the position now held by William Alden Smith in public life. He is popular with his constituents and popular



with his associates; the result is that he has influence and standing. He is without question the most representative citizen of Grand Rapids.

#### **Grand Rapids Bar Association.**

The Grand Rapids Bar Association was organized in January, 1902, with 106 incorporators. The purposes of the association are set out in its articles of association as follows:

"The objects for which this corporation is organized are to maintain the honor and dignity of the profession of the law, to increase its usefulness in promoting the due administration of justice, and to cultivate social intercourse among its members."

The officers since its organization have been as follows:

President—1902, Thomas J. O'Brien; 1903, Roger W. Butterfield; 1904, Arthur C. Denison; 1905, Loyal E. Knappen; 1906, McGeorge Bundy. Vice President—1902, Loyal E. Knappen; 1903, Arthur C. Denison; 1904, McGeorge Bundy; 1905, George Clapperton; 1906, John E. More. Secretary—1902-1905, Hugh E. Wilson; 1906, Ganson Taggart. Treasurer—1902, Henry T. Heald; 1903-1906, Howart A. Thornton. Trustees for 1906—Jacob Kleinhaus, James H. Campbell and Charles M. Wilson.

The following is the roll of membership for 1906:

Allen C. Adsit, Sylvester W. Barker, Charles W. Boltwood, George S. Boltwood, Lucius Boltwood, George C. Brown, William B. Brown, Claude R. Buchanan, McGeorge Bundy, Roger W. Butterfield, Champlin R. Butterfield, Thomas P. Bradfield, James H. Campbell, Martin H. Carmody, Frank L. Carpenter, Thomas F. Carroll, George Clapperton, Everett D. Comstock, Benn M. Corwin, Albert Crane, Harry L. Creswell, Colin P. Campbell, Peter J. Danhof, Arthur C. Denison, Peter Doran, Walter W. Drew, Emanuel J. Doyle, James J. Danhof, William H. Eastman, Alvin E. Ewing, J. Edward Earle, Henry B. Fallass, Raymond M. Ferguson, Charles L. Fitch, Gerald Fitzgerald, William D. Fuller, Clark H. Gleason, Dwight Goss, William E. Grove, Fred P. Geib, Reuben Hatch, Henry T. Heald, George Hefferan, Ambrose C. Hindman, George Hollway, Alfred H. Hunt, Wesley W. Hyde, Frank W. Hine, Frank W. Hess, Cornelius Hoffius, Harry D. Jewell, J. Byron Judkins, Willard F. Keeney, Joseph Kirwin, Willard Kingsley, Jacob Kleinhans, Loyal E. Knappen, Stuart E. Knappen, William J. Landman, John S. Lawrence, Arthur Lowell,



Wm. Allen Smith



Walter C. Lee, Edgar A. Maher, Carl E. Mapes, John S. McDonald, Don E. Minor, John E. More, Benjamin P. Merrick, Richard L. Newnham, Mark Norris, T. J. O'Brien, Jesse F. Orton, Charles M. Owen, John Patton, Cyrus E. Perkins, Willis B. Perkins, Charles J. Potter, John W. Powers, J. T. Preston, Fred M. Raymond, Joseph Renihan, Will E. Ryan, Charles O. Smedley, Francis A. Stace, Jacob Steketee, Earl R. Stewart, William J. Stuart, Elvin Swarthout, Edwin F. Sweet, William Alden Smith, Edward Taggart, Ganson Taggart, Moses Taggart, J. H. Tatem, Fred C. Temple, George W. Thompson, Howard A. Thornton, Philip H. Travis, Leonard D. Verdier, Hadley H. Walch, Myron H. Walker, Charles E. Ward, Charles A. Watt, Sybrant Wesselius, Kirk E. Wicks, Charles M. Wilson, Hugh E. Wilson, Alfred Wolcott, Laurens W. Wolcott, Gustave A. Wolf, Henry F. Walch.

## CHAPTER XXVII.

### THE BOARD OF TRADE.

With the close of the Civil War and the armies of the South and North returned to the offices, warerooms, stores, factories and farms, came a tremendous national spirit of hope, determination and effort in the direction of peaceful pursuits. And then, as now, the business men of Grand Rapids were strong in their faith, their loyalty, and their purposes in behalf of their beloved city.

And so, about the first of February, 1866, those men held a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Board of Trade. Other meetings were held, officers were elected, a constitution and by-laws were adopted and directors were elected. But the effort was simply in the direction of organizing a buying-and-selling body, a trading association and it was short lived, for the reason that the city was small, with but a meagerly settled country tributary thereto, and for the additional reason that no considerable sentiment of doing things for the good of the entire community prevailed. The only official fact as to the first effort above outlined, that came down to the present Board of Trade, was the surrender of \$85 (representing the balance of the fund of that association,) by the venerable treasurer, J. Frederic Baars, still (1905) a revered resident of the city. Of the original members of that first futile effort, the following gentlemen are still alive: Messrs. J. Frederic Baars, E. T. Nelson, W. D. Talford, W. S. Gunn, D. P. Clay, Wm. T. Powers, Wilna Cole, Norman D. Carpenter and L. H. Randall.

Early in September, 1887, Mr. H. D. C. Van Asmus drew up a memorandum approval of a movement to form a Business Men's Association or Board of Trade, which was signed by 277 business men of the city and on the evening of November 8, 1887, a meeting was held in the Common Council chamber pursuant to a formal call for the purpose of organizing a Board of Trade. And to this call Mr. Van Asmus secured the signatures of 146 of the city's leading representatives of her financial, commercial and industrial interests.

At this meeting the following officers were elected: President, George G. Briggs; vice-presidents, L. J. Rindge, J. A. Covode and Charles W. Watkins. Directors, Thos. D. Gilbert, Julius Houseman, M. S. Crosby, John Widdicomb, Joseph Heald, James Blair, T. W. Strahan, Henry Spring, B. M. Putnam, A. B. Watson, J. W. Blodgett, W. H. Powers, E. Crofton Fox, C. H. Leonard, M. R. Bissell, C. R. Sligh, A. B. Knowlson, D. H. Waters, C. G. A. Voigt, I. C. Levi, Elias Matter, Wm. Dunham, Amos S. Musselman, S. F. Stevens, J. Benjamin and E. B. Fisher, with the president and vice-presidents ex-officio directors.

Two days later, November 10, the directors held their first meeting, at which Mr. E. Crofton Fox was elected treasurer and Mr. H. D. C. Van Asmus was elected secretary of the Board.

There are two very interesting facts connected with the history thus far. Of the twenty-nine original officers elected, seventeen are still members of the Board and Mr. Van Asmus, the one who took the initiative and put it through to success, the original secretary, is still secretary of the organization. The other interesting fact is that very early, practically at the first meeting, after the organization of the Board, four well known topics were taken up, i. e., the question of a pure water supply for the city, the matter of freight rates by rail, the improvement of Grand River, and the provision of a permanent home for the Board of Trade—questions still before the organization in a prominent way. This was especially the case as to improving the river, Secretary Van Asmus canvassing the city for signatures and subscriptions to pay the cost of a preliminary survey in order to obtain an approximate estimate as to the cost of the proposed improvement.

This foreword is not to say that after eighteen years experience the Board has not accomplished anything in these respects. Fact is the Board has been of great value to the municipal authorities not only as to the water question, but in relation to sanitary conditions and governmental affairs in general; that it has been chiefly instrumental, scores of times, in securing freight rate concessions and improved passenger train service from all the railroads and better and adequate service from the telegraph corporations; and that it has at last (during August, 1905) secured an ample, well located and admirable permanent home for the association, of which more will be shown later on in this review.

During the summer of 1905 two stern wheel steamboats, each

135 feet length, 30 feet beam and 180 tons measurement, were built by the Grand Rapids and Lake Michigan Transportation Company—an organization created through the efforts and influence of the Board of Trade and composed of its members—at Grand Rapids and to be operated up and down the river between Grand Haven and Grand Rapids, said channel having a minimum depth of five feet. And also, on the 24th of October, 1905, the Board of Trade christened the first boat completed, the steamer *Grand*, by taking a ride down the river to the “Clay Banks,” where the annual picnic was held, after which the return trip home was made to the delight of 500 members of the Board.

The incidents already referred to are by no means unique illustrations as to the determination, persistence and force shown by the Board of Trade in its perpetual campaign in behalf of the general welfare.

The West Michigan State Fair Association, a corporation owning upward of \$100,000 worth of property and giving annually a very large and interesting exposition of the agricultural, live stock and industrial resources of Michigan, is also a protegee, in fact the “first born” of the Board of Trade. Another successful offspring is the Furniture City Driving Club with its mile track, its grand stand and stables and its two race meetings each year. And yet another and perhaps most important “baby” is the Grand Rapids Park and Boulevard Association, which is a corporation already owning a right of way, partly donated and partly purchased, along the bank of Grand River, seven miles, to Grandville, to be used perpetually as a boulevard. The plan of this organization is to improve this boulevard and extend it by obtaining the right of way on the opposite side of the river, thus securing a riverside drive of fourteen miles length and exquisite natural beauty. The purpose of this organization does not stop with this. It contemplates a complete system of parks and boulevards, encircling the city with the river, Reed’s Lake, Fisk’s Lake, the Soldiers’ Home, the Masonic Home and the grounds of the West Michigan State Fair as its salient points, and it also contemplates the ultimate transference of the entire system to the municipality.

These four organizations, the Fair Association, the Driving Club, the Boulevard Association and the Steamboat Company organized and officered by leading men of the Board of Trade, still remain under the parental care of the Board of Trade in

the person of Secretary Van Asmus as a sort of managing director.

From the inception of the Board of Trade there has been shown a remarkable pride and loyalty to the city it represents, and, through the operation of those qualities rendered most effective by the frequent meetings of officers and committees, there has developed a condition of harmonious co-operation among the business men of Grand Rapids, that has no parallel in the entire State of Michigan. And it is through this singleness of purpose, this utter freedom from petty jealousies, this united action for the good of the entire city, that the Board, on amicable terms with city officials, with corporations and with individuals, has been able to achieve much that is of permanent value.

In the natural order of things, because the demands made upon the time and resources of men differ, there are men who have been so situated that they would give greater attention to the affairs of the Board, could contribute of their means toward advancing the interests of the organization to a larger extent than could be done by others. While all members have been loyal and generous, it is due to name a few of the members who have been especially active, and influential, as appended: The late Thos. D. Gilbert, Julius Houseman and M. S. Crosby, and Messrs. George G. Briggs, Wm. H. Anderson, Amos S. Musselman, Gaius W. Perkins, Sidney F. Stevens, Abraham May, George G. Whitworth, Lester J. Rindge, W. R. Shelby, Wm. Alden Smith, E. D. Conger, Chas. R. Sligh, L. C. Stow, O. A. Ball, S. M. Lemon, Charles H. Leonard, C. L. Harvey, J. H. P. Hughart, F. C. Miller, J. R. Wylie, John Widdicomb, George A. Davis, W. R. Stuart, Robert D. Graham, R. W. Irwin, C. S. Burch, E. A. Stowe, Christian Gallmeyer, B. S. Hanchett and Clay H. Hollister.

Under the leadership of such men the Grand Rapids Board of Trade has acquired a national reputation for its civic pride and co-ordinate skill and energy throughout the eighteen years of its existence, and, like the fealty of the university bred man whose alma mater is an inspiration to him, the members of the Board of Trade give of their time, their best thought and their cash to advance all causes the organization takes up. And so the Board of Trade has been and is prominent in the consideration of National, State and City affairs, their opinions and influence being of decided importance because of their sincerity and conservatism with



resultant wisdom. From the original 146 members the organization now has a roster of about 1,200 active paying members, and from the initial meagre and poorly located offices, it is now the owner of a well built structure of brick and iron, having a basement and five stories. Located in the very heart of the office building section of the city—at Nos. 97 and 99 Pearl street, within half a square of the United States government building, one square of the city hall, two squares of the county building, and directly opposite the ten story building of the Michigan Trust Co.—the Board of Trade's new building will be a central rallying point for the business men of Grand Rapids and Western Michigan for a great many years to come.

Thus, in mere outline is given the record, purpose and policy of one of the most influential and prosperous public enterprises in the United States.

The business of Grand Rapids for 1904, according to figures prepared by the Board of Trade, is shown as follows

#### **Freight Tonnage.**

Freight in and out, tons.....2,290,247

#### **Financial.**

Aggregate banking capital.....	\$ 3,050,000
Bank clearings.....	101,037,199
Savings deposits and certificates.....	14,314,000
School savings .....	32,787
Postoffice receipts.....	334,722
Postoffice net earnings.....	171,791

#### **Manufactures.**

Manufacturing establishments, all kinds.....	824
Capital employed.....	\$25,915,861
Value of product .....	\$31,032,589
Cost of materials used .....	\$14,615,176
Officials, clerks and wage earners.....	17,188
Salaries and wages paid .....	\$9,077,765

#### **Jobbing.**

Jobbing and commission houses .....	119
Capital employed .....	\$ 4,431,706

Sales .....	\$21,619,263
Officials, clerks and wage earners .....	2,462
Salaries and wages paid .....	\$ 1,201,860

### Grand Rapids Board of Trade.

Its Officers, Directors and Committees for 1905 are as follows:

#### Officers.

President, Geo. G. Whitworth; vice-president, Cornelius L. Harvey; vice-president, John H. P. Hughart; treasurer, Chas. B. Kelsey; secretary, H. D. C. Van Asmus; assistant secretary, Charles S. Hathaway.

#### Directors.

Representing Fifth Congressional District—Congressman Wm. Alden Smith.

Representing the Municipal Government—Mayor Edwin F. Sweet, Alderman Thos. Doran, Alderman Elvin Swarthout.

For Life as Ex-Presidents—Wm. H. Anderson, Col. Geo. G. Briggs, Abraham May, Gaius W. Perkins, Sidney F. Stevens, Amos S. Musselman.

For Life for Ten Years Continuous Service—Orson A. Ball, John A. Covode, Ernest B. Fisher, Elijah H. Foot, James A. Hunt, Henry Idema, Samuel M. Lemon, Chas. H. Leonard, Lester J. Rindge Wm. R. Shelby, Chas. R. Sligh, Lathrop C. Stow, Wm. J. Stuart, Elbridge G. Studley, Carl G. A. Voigt, Lewis H. Withey.

Term expires February, 1906—Chas. H. Bender, Alvah W. Brown, John D. Case, Eugene D. Conger, Geo. H. Davidson, Arthur C. Denison, Marshall D. Elgin, Carroll C. Follmer, Chas. W. Garfield, Robt. D. Graham, Robt. W. Irwin, Eugene W. Jones, Frederick C. Miller, Chas. F. Perkins, Alfred D. Rathbone, Robt. E. Shanahan, Wm. C. Sheppard, Malcolm C. Sinclair, W. B. Weston, John Widdicomb.

Term expires February, 1907—Sylvester W. Barker, Fred M. Briggs, Chas. S. Burch, Geo. Clapperton, Geo. A. Davis, Wm. H. Gilbert, Christian Gallmeyer, Claude Hamilton, Benjamin S. Hanchett, Clay H. Hollister, Lee M. Hutchins, Harry D. Jewell, Willard F. Keeney, Wm. Logie, Cyrus E. Perkins, Edson H. Smith,

Ernest A. Stowe, Henry J. Vinkemulder, Dudley E. Waters, James R. Wylie.

#### Committees.

Executive—Abraham May, chairman; Wm. H. Anderson, O. A. Ball, Col. G. G. Briggs Jno. A. Covode, E. B. Fisher, Elijah H. Foot, Jas. A. Hunt, Henry Idema, Samuel M. Lemon Chas. H. Leonard, Amos S. Musselman, Gaius W. Perkins, Lester J. Rindge, Wm. R. Shelby, Chas. R. Sligh, Sidney F. Stevens, Lathrop C. Stow, Wm. J. Stuart, Elbridge G. Studley, Carl G. A. Voigt, Lewis H. Withey.

Arbitration—A. C. Denison chairman; John A. Covode, L. H. Withey, E. B. Fisher, C. G. A. Voigt.

Appeals—Willard F. Keeney, chairman; L. J. Rindge, G. G. Briggs, Wm. J. Stuart, Wm. R. Shelby.

Ways and Means—R. D. Graham, chairman; C. L. Harvey, B. S. Hanchett, vice chairmen; H. L. Adsit, Thos. F. Bechtel, Samuel Braudy, W. C. Chinnick, A. A. Carroll, B. M. Corwin, Dr. G. A. Crawford, W. H. Gay, Chas. Fox, E. H. Foot, H. B. Fairchild, J. W. Fitzgerald, J. A. J. Friedrich, F. W. Fuller, F. A. Hall, Claude Hamilton, A. S. Hicks, E. J. Herrick, H. J. Heystek, F. T. Hulswit, F. R. Jean, S. E. Knappen, Henry Kohlhepp, J. Geo. Lehman, R. A. McWilliams, Geo. K. McMullen, J. B. Martin, M. M. Marrin, N. W. Mather, M. S. May, H. N. Morrill, Dr. D. Murray, J. D. Muir, P. H. O'Brien, C. S. Paine, J. J. Rutka, H. T. Stanton, Henry Sullivan, L. J. Stevenson, L. C. Stow, L. T. Wilwarth, O. N. Watson, Dr. D. E. Welsh, W. S. Winegar, C. H. Walker, J. B. Ware, C. F. Waters, L. W. Welch, Geo. W. Thompson, R. B. Tietzsort.

Municipal Affairs—Chas. W. Garfield, chairman; James R. Wylie, C. H. Bender, vice chairmen; J. G. Alexander, Edward Ansorge, H. T. Baldwin, J. B. Barlow, A. Baxter, H. P. Belknap, A. E. Brooks, Irvin Butterworth, Dr. E. Bigham, P. C. Campbell, T. F. Carroll, G. H. DeGraaf, A. C. Denison, Thos. Doran, R. S. French, J. L. Hamilton, Rev. R. H. Hartley, Thos. Hefferan, Dr. S. D. Hinman, Chas. Holden, Geo. P. Hummer, W. W. Hyde, Frank Jewell, K. S. Judson, Wm. Judson, F. Letellier C. H. Leonard, R. B. Loomis, Dr. A. E. Luton, W. Fred McBain, W. T. McGurrian, Mark Norris, W. Millard Palmer, A. S. Parish, J. E. Peck, W. B. Perkins, Samuel Ranck, Rev. J. Herman Randall, F. A. Rodgers,

Dr. R. H. Spencer, Moses Taggart, F. A. Twamley, G. N. Wagner, H. F. Walch, A. M. Webster, Wm. Williamson.

Auditing—Alvah W. Brown, chairman; F. S. Coleman, R. E. Shanahan.

Improvement of Grand River—Amos S. Musselman, chairman; Samuel M. Lemon, Gaius W. Perkins, vice chairmen; L. W. Anderson, A. H. Apted, Jno. W. Blodgett, H. K. Dean, Shepard Frost, Roy G. Harrison, H. J. Hartman, H. S. Jordan, C. B. Kelsey, S. A. Morman, A. A. Scott, Chas. R. Sligh, J. W. Spooner, Henry Spring, E. G. Studley, F. S. Torrey, M. B. Wheeler.

Transportation—Eugene D. Conger, chairman; Geo. A. Davis, Lee M. Hutchins, vice chairmen; A. M. Amberg, H. M. Amsden, Christian Bertsch, O. E. Brown, W. E. Cox, Alexander Dodds, M. H. Ducey, A. Himes, M. S. Keeler, James Leenhouts, Jno. Mowat, Jesse F. Orton, G. W. Perkins, Jr., R. J. Prendergast, E. K. Prichett, G. W. Rouse, John Sehler, J. D. M. Shirts, G. F. Sinclair, E. W. Stiles, C. S. Udell, Van A. Wallin, W. C. Weatherly, S. Wesselius, T. E. Wykes, Chas. F. Young.

Public Improvement—Wm. C. Sheppard, chairman; Chas. S. Burch, C. Gallmeyer, vice chairmen; Chas. M. Alden, C. E. Belknap, L. A. Cornelius, H. E. Crow, F. M. Davis, Wm. H. Elson, J. W. Ferdon, A. S. Goodman, C. A. Greenman, J. B. Griswold, C. H. Hall, Fred B. Hunter, Henry Idema, S. B. Jenks, C. H. Johnston, E. S. Kiefer, C. E. Koon, Rev. J. R. T. Lathrop, Jno. E. More, F. E. Pulte, C. F. Rood, H. E. Sargeant, P. H. Travis, Chas. M. Wilson, Alfred Wolcott.

Legislation—Harry D. Jewell, chairman; Elvin Swarthout, Cyrus E. Perkins, vice chairmen; E. M. Barnard, Geo. S. Boltwood, J. H. Brewer, Claude Buchanan, Jas. A. Coye, W. W. Drew, Geo. E. Ellis, Andrew Fyfe, Dwight Goss, Reuben Hatch, H. T. Heald, J. W. Hunter, Gelmer Kuiper, Jno. S. Lawrence, C. E. Mapes, Don E. Minor, R. L. Newnham, Huntley Russell, C. D. Sharrow, C. O. Smedley, G. A. Wolf.

Wholesale Dealers—Marshall D. Elgin, chairman; Wm. Logie, Alfred D. Rathbone, vice chairmen; W. M. Adams, D. M. Amberg, O. A. Ball, W. Y. Barclay, R. R. Bean, A. J. Brown, F. E. Brown, F. C. Canfield, J. G. Doan, F. L. Dykema, Gilbert J. Haan, Sherwood Hall, W. F. Holmes, J. B. Hutchins, T. C. Ferguson; C. W. Jennings, R. B. Kellogg, F. E. Leonard, C. C. Philbrick, C. N.

Remington, D. C. Steketee, S. M. Wells, E. D. Winchester, N. P. Winchell.

Entertainment—Eugene W. Jones, chairman; S. W. Barker, C. E. Temple, vice chairmen; J. B. Ackerman, R. W. Alles, I. A. Anderson, G. H. Behnke, Henry Brobst, C. C. Cargill, W. S. Conger, F. J. Dettenthaler, M. A. Gelock, Jos. Hart, G. M. Leonard, W. A. Martindale, T. F. Noble, Chas. M. Owen, W. K. Plumb, A. B. Richmond, Henry Riechel, D. C. Scribner, G. H. Seymour, S. W. Sherman, G. W. Sinclair, F. W. Temple, E. J. Vogt.

Industrial—Dudley E. Waters, chairman; Geo. H. Davidson, Jno. D. Case, vice chairmen; N. H. Battjes, C. H. Berkey, G. T. Burridge, C. I. Clapp, Jas. M. Crosby, Geo. I. Davidson, W. R. Fox, C. H. Gleason, Wm. T. Hess, W. C. Hopson, Daniel McCoy, Jno. McNabb, F. C. Miller, J. F. Mueller, T. W. Strahan, F. W. Tobey.

Convention—W. B. Weston, chairman; F. M. Briggs, M. C. Sinclair, vice chairmen; W. S. Austin, Jno. Clay, El. A. Crozier, Chas. Dregge, Jas. Finlay, J. H. Goss, H. L. Houseman, G. A. Krause, Ernest McLean, Wm. Mahar, C. N. Marcellus, C. A. Mitts, J. P. Moran, W. K. Morley, H. W. Mellenbacker, F. A. Onderdonk, L. C. Parmenter, H. P. Parmelee, Eber Rice, K. S. Riser, W. A. Stowe, E. J. Savage, F. J. Sokup.

Grain—F. A. Voigt, chairman; E. C. Mangold, E. L. Wellman.

Suggestions—Geo. Clapperton, chairman; Wm. H. Anderson, J. S. McDonald, Rev. J. N. McCormick, Sidney F. Stevens, E. A. Stowe, Wm. Widdicomb.

Retail Dealers—Edson H. Smith, chairman; J. C. Herkner, C. W. Greulich, vice chairmen; W. D. Bishop, J. N. Cukierski, W. S. Daniels, J. E. Gable, T. J. Host, G. J. Johnson, H. A. Knott, P. J. Koke, T. A. McGee, F. R. Miles, Jno. D. Muir, H. Schneider, Jos. Siegel, A. J. Shellman, N. E. Strong, J. J. Thomson, C. R. Vanderpool, L. J. Witters, F. A. Wurzburg, Wm. M. Wurzburg.

Banquet—R. W. Irwin, Jr., chairman; J. Widdicomb, Dr. W. M. Burleson, vice chairmen; A. N. Albee, A. W. Bell, W. L. Cukierski, C. L. Frost, F. S. Gould, C. L. Grinnell, A. W. Hine, Jos. Horner, F. F. Knight, H. W. Lemoin, G. E. Luther, G. A. Richards, Dr. M. E. Roberts, Henry Smith, W. H. Thompson, F. A. Tusch.

Fruits and Farm Produce—H. J. Vinkelmulder, chairman; C. D. Crittenden, E. E. Hewitt, vice chairmen; T. E. Graham, L. F. Jones, J. C. Maynard, L. F. Peabody.

Real Estate—Wm. H. Gilbert, chairman; Wm. H. Kinsey, P. W. Decker, vice chairmen; Wm. G. Beckwith, J. E. Bodwell, C. M. Brown, James Campbell, L. T. Closterhouse, Jno. C. Dunton, W. R. Griffiths, Truman Kellogg, H. S. Pressburg.

Printing—E. B. Fisher, chairman; Dr. T. C. Irwin, Homer Klap, A. Leitelt, W. J. Loomis, Peter Meeuwsen, Wm. H. Muir.

Lumber—Chas. F. Perkins, chairman; G. B. Daniels, A. L. Dennis, vice chairmen; H. C. Angell, E. C. Groesbeck, Jno. Murray, R. M. Schorenstein, Walter Stone, B. R. Thompson, N. J. G. Van Keulen.

Statistics—Elijah H. Foot, chairman; C. S. Bacon, F. A. Barnes, A. L. Holmes, Dr. T. M. Koon, W. A. McLean, A. W. Miller.

Membership—C. C. Follmer, chairman; Jas. A. Hunt, A. May, vice chairmen; J. H. Bowditch, W. H. Brooks, C. S. Bullen, W. J. Calder, Orra Chadwick, Walter Clark, E. A. Clements, J. C. Coade, Chas. Connell, Chas. A. Cove, E. H. Cummings, Chas. S. Davies, Eugene Davis, Wm. S. Denison, A. DeWindt, F. J. Dyk, F. W. Emmer, R. M. Ferguson, W. H. Ferris, W. B. Fulton, J. E. Furman, O. C. Granger, H. J. Gray, J. G. Gronberg, J. C. Gulliford, John Hensen, Dr. J. B. Hilliker, C. T. Hovey, S. J. Hufford, C. E. Kelly, W. J. Kennedy, W. J. Kling, C. Konkle, Wm. J. Landman, R. C. Lyle, R. V. McArthur, Chas. McQuewan, A. B. Merritt, E. B. Miller, J. W. Miller, Dr. W. B. Matthews, H. B. Moore, E. B. Newell, Benjamin Powers, J. H. Reinders, A. E. Remington, Jno. Ringold, A. A. Rinker, H. B. Risedorph, F. S. Robinson, Geo. E. Roelofs, R. C. Rowlson, H. Schlichtig, P. B. Schrav-esande, G. C. Schroeder, L. L. Skillman; D. D. Slater, B. A. Spring, E. G. Squires, W. F. Stanton, C. H. Strawhecker, Dr. W. A. Studley, H. W. L. Ten Broek, M. P. Thiele, W. J. Thomas, Dr. H. J. Trask, A. K. Tyson, Herman Van Aalderen, Geo. Vandermeer, J. J. Vandermeer, Frank Welton, C. N. Willis, A. B. Wilmink, Dr. C. H. Winton, A. Wurzburg.

**Henry D. C. Van Asmus**, the Secretary of the Board of Trade, is a native of The Netherlands, where he was born on May 13, 1843, in the city of Amsterdam. His father and his grandfather were engaged in the East India service and the future Secretary completed his education in a government school near Batavia, in the Island of Sumatra.

In 1862, soon after his father had been killed in the service and the death of his mother, he came to America and at once

enlisted in the military service, becoming a member of the Seventy-ninth New York Volunteers. He was soon detailed to special service by the War Department, in which he continued until 1866, when he was mustered out and came to Grand Rapids.

For the next two years he was engaged in editing and publishing a Holland newspaper. He then entered the service of the old Grand River Railroad Co. and remained with that road until long after it was absorbed by the Michigan Central. He was in the railroad service until 1887, during which time he was connected with the Michigan Central, the West Michigan, and the G. R. & I. For several years he was General Railroad Agent and became thoroughly familiar with Grand Rapids shipping interests and transportation problems. He also obtained an extended acquaintance with the business men of the city and the details of its commerce and trade.

He became Secretary of the Furniture Manufacturers' Association, whose work and success suggested the Grand Rapids Board of Trade. Mr. Van Asmus became Secretary of the Board of Trade when it was organized, in November, 1887.

He has been its Secretary ever since, with the exception of a few years, when he was engaged in building the Pythian Temple. Both by education and temperament he is peculiarly fitted for the duties of his position. His experience in the government and railroad service made him familiar with large undertakings, and the importance of details; also with the art of uniting men for a common purpose. His newspaper experience taught him the value of publicity and the methods of obtaining it.

Mr. Van Asmus knows how to harmonize conflicting interests for the general good, how to inspire enthusiasm and how to induce men of affairs to devote time, money and effort to civic affairs. He appreciates the value of organization and the necessity of patience in accomplishing results. On the other hand, no one knows better how to make a quick movement when necessity demands it. The personality of its Secretary has done much to win success for the Grand Rapids Board of Trade.



*A. D. Wankmiller*





## CHAPTER XXVIII.

### COLONIAL, TERRITORIAL, STATE AND LOCAL POLITICAL HISTORY.

Before the Revolutionary War the Upper Lake region of our country was little known, except the points where there were missionary or trading stations. Indeed, from 1701 down to the administration of General Lewis Cass, which began in 1813, the history of Detroit and of Michilimackinac comprises about all of local history for that period of what is now Michigan. The northwest country was a portion of Canada, from 1603 to November, 1760, when it was surrendered to the British. Under both French and British control, the governors exercised the functions of both civil and military authority, subject to orders of the commanding general to whom they reported. The first local civil government was provided in 1774. After Canada was divided into two provinces, in 1791, Michigan formed a part of Upper Canada. The following are lists of governors, or acting governors:

#### Under French Rule.

M. Chauvin, Commander de Chastes, and M. de Montes.	1603-12
Samuel de Champlain, with Prince de Conde, as acting governor	1612-19
Admiral Montmorenci as acting governor	1619-29
Samuel de Champlain	1633-35
M. de Chateaufort	1636
M. de Montmagny	1637-47
M. d' Aillebout	1647-51
M. Jean de Lauson	1651-56
M. Charles de Lauson-Charny	1656-57
M. d' Aillebout	1657-58
Viscount d' Argenson	1658-61
Baron d' Avangour	1661-63
Chevalier de Saffrery-Mesy	1663-65
Chevalier de Courcelles	1665-72
Comte Frontenac	1672-82
M. Lefebvre de la Barre	1682-85
Marquis de Denouville	1685-89

Comte Frontenac .....	1689-99
Chevalier de Callieres.....	1699-1705
Marquis de Vaudreuil.....	1705-26
Marquis de Beauharnois.....	1726-47
Count de la Galissonere.....	1747-49
Marquis de la Jonquiere.....	1749-52
Baron de Longueuil (acting short time).....	1752
Marquis Duquesne de Menneville.....	1752-55
Pierre de Rigaud, Marquis de Vaudreuil-Cavagnal.....	1755-60

#### **Under English Rule.**

General Jeffrey Amherst .....	1760-63
General James Murray .....	1763-66
Paulus Emelius Ivine (president of Council).....	1766
Sir Guy Carlton (lieutenant-governor).....	1766-70
Hector T. Cramahe (president of Council).....	1770-74
Sir Guy Carleton.....	1774-78
General Frederick Haldimand (lieutenant-governor)....	1778-84
Henry Hamilton (lieutenant-governor).....	1784
Colonel Henry Hope (president of Council).....	1785
Guy Carlton, as Lord Dorchester.....	1785-92
John Graves Simcoe (lieutenant-governor U. C.).....	1792-96

#### **The Northwest Territory.**

Although the territory was set off from Canada in 1783, the United States did not obtain full control of Michigan till 1796, and during those years the Canadian governors had de facto authority. Virginia appears to have had a well founded claim to possession of the Northwest Territory, by virtue of her original charter; but Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York also set up claims, and dissensions concerning them interfered with the formation of the Union. All claims, however, were finally surrendered, and in 1787 the famous ordinance was passed by Congress for the government of the territory northwest of the Ohio river, which is memorable from the fact that it excluded slavery forever and made liberal provision for the support of schools. Under American government General Arthur St. Clair was governor of the Northwest Territory from 1787 to 1800, when the territory was divided and the Territory of Indiana created. The latter included Michigan, and General William Henry Harrison was its governor till 1805. In 1804 an act was passed which placed in the jurisdiction of Indiana

Territory Michigan and all that part of the United States north of the thirty-third parallel, west to the Pacific Ocean.

### **Michigan Territory.**

In 1805 a division was made into two territories—Indiana and Michigan—the latter to include that part of Indiana Territory lying north of a line drawn from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan due east to Lake Erie; and on July 2 of that year the governor and judges took the oath of office at Detroit. In 1814 Governor Cass devised a seal, which was duly recorded, bearing the motto, “*Tandem fit surculus arbor*”—indicating that the Michigan Territorial shoot had become an independent tree. In 1816 a strip was taken from the territory and included in the State of Indiana. In 1818 Congress added to Michigan Territory all of Wisconsin and the western part of the Upper Peninsula. In 1819 the election of a delegate to Congress was authorized. In 1823 the government of the territory was transferred from the governor and judges to the governor and a council of nine persons, to be selected by the president from eighteen persons elected by the people. In 1827 the people of the territory were authorized to elect thirteen persons to constitute the Legislative Council. In 1834 the territorial limits were enlarged, by which Michigan Territory was made to include all of the present States of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, and a large part of Dakota. Wisconsin was set off in April, 1836, leaving Michigan a territory by itself. In 1835 a convention of eighty-nine delegates, chosen by the people, assembled in Detroit, May 11, to form a State Constitution, and concluded its work June 24 of that year. Seventy-three delegates attended. Those from Kalamazoo county, which then included Kent, were Lucius Lyon, William H. Welch and Hezekiah G. Wells. The constitution prepared by the convention was ratified and adopted by a vote of the people on the first Monday in October, 1835. This constitution remained in force as the fundamental law of the state until that of 1850 went into operation. The governors of the Territory of Michigan were:

William Hull, March 1, 1805, to October 29, 1813.

Lewis Cass, October 29, 1813, to August 6, 1831.

George B. Porter, August 6, 1831, to July 6, 1834.

Stevens T. Mason, July 6, 1834, to September 20, 1835.

John S. Horner, September 20, 1835, to November 2, 1835.

### **State of Michigan.**

In June, 1836, Congress passed an enabling act for the admission of Michigan to the Union, provided the state would accept the boundary which gave a strip of disputed territory on the south to the State of Ohio, and take in lieu of that what is known as the Upper Peninsula. This, after much cavil and the holding of two conventions, was finally agreed to by popular vote, and Michigan became a full-fledged state, January 26, 1837. And this ended a controversy with Ohio, which for a time assumed serious proportions, and which has since been popularly known as "The Toledo War." It has proved an advantageous settlement for the state, for the mineral resources of that upper section are immeasurably greater than the resources and wealth of the disputed territory.

The state government formed by the first constitution has since remained substantially unchanged. In 1850 a new constitution was adopted, which remains in operation at the present day, with few amendments. The powers of government are divided into three departments: Legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative power is vested in a Senate and House of Representatives; the Senate consisting of 32 and the House of 100 members, elected by districts every two years. The executive power is vested in a governor, chosen by popular election, who holds his office for two years. The judicial power is vested in a supreme court, circuit courts, probate courts, and justices of the peace, and, in cities, such other municipal courts of civil and criminal jurisdiction as may be established by the legislature.

Under United States jurisdiction this region was originally included for civil purposes in the county of Wayne. By proclamation of Winthrop Sargent, acting as governor of the territory northwest of the Ohio river, August 15, 1796, it was ordained and ordered that the lands within a boundary beginning at the mouth of Cuyahoga river, thence through several points mentioned in the order, to Fort Wayne, thence to the most southern part of Lake Michigan, thence along the western shore of that lake to the northwest part thereof, thence north

to the territorial boundary in Lake Superior, thence along that boundary through Lakes Huron, St. Clair and Erie to the place of beginning, should "be a county, named and henceforth to be styled the County of Wayne." By a similar proclamation, January 14, 1803, William Henry Harrison, governor of Indiana Territory, ordained that the County of Wayne should include the country within a boundary beginning at a point where an east and west line passing through the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan would intersect a north and south line, passing through the westerly extreme of said lake, thence north to the territorial boundary line, thence along said boundary line to a point where an east and west line passing through the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan would intersect the same, thence along this last mentioned line to the place of beginning. Its area included almost the entire state, a strip from the east side of Wisconsin, and also Chicago, and its territory now has a resident population of more than 4,000,000.

### **Kent County.**

In 1829 Kalamazoo county was organized, and by act of the Legislative Council of the Territory of Michigan, July 30, 1830, all the country north of it, which included what is now Kent county, was attached to and made a part of Kalamazoo county for judicial purposes. By act of the Legislative Council, March 2, 1831, Kent county was set off and named. Under an act of July 31, 1830, and amendments subsequent thereto, James Kingsley, S. V. R. Trowbridge and Charles Lanman, commissioners appointed by the governor for that purpose, located the county seat at Grand Rapids, and set the stake therefor November 8, 1833, near the center of what is now Fulton Street Park. On the 24th of March, 1836, by an act of the State Legislature, Kent county was organized—the act to take effect on the first Monday in April of that year. Kent county originally comprised sixteen townships, but subsequently eight townships were added on the north, giving it twenty-four.

The township of Kent was organized March 7, 1834, and included all that part of Kent county south of Grand river. February 16, 1842, the name of the township was changed from Kent to Grand Rapids. The township of Walker was incorporated December 30, 1837, and originally included all that part

of Kent county north of Grand river. From these two townships the village of Grand Rapids was taken. There never was an incorporated "Village of Kent," though in popular speech that name was given in the early days to the part lying between Division street and the river and north of the original Campau plat. Similarly the latter plat was called "Village of Grand Rapids," though there was no legally incorporated village for some time after the settlement.

Michigan was admitted as a state of the Federal Union in 1837. Prior to that time there was little political excitement and enthusiasm in Grand Rapids. In territorial days there were no party divisions. At the first election, held in 1834, in which Grand Rapids was interested, there were more offices than there were voters, so that after election each elector had an office and some had two. No wonder that modern politicians sigh for the good old times before the days of the Australian ballot and primary reforms! The election of 1837 was an event not only in Michigan but in Grand Rapids. It was the first state election, and the Grand Rapids precinct constituted Kent, Ottawa and Muskegon counties. A boatload of voters came up the river from Grand Haven and marched in a body to the polls at the Kent Hotel. The party consisted of fifty Democrats and three Whigs, of whom Thomas D. Gilbert was one. The Democratic victory was overwhelming, not only at Grand Rapids but in Michigan. Stevens T. Mason was elected governor. May 1, 1838, was held the first village election, at which one hundred and fifty-one votes were cast. The trustees chosen were Louis Campau, Richard Godfroy, William A. Richmond, Charles I. Walker, James Watson, and Henry C. Smith, of whom Henry C. Smith was elected president.

In 1840 there was a political campaign which has seldom been equaled and never surpassed in enthusiasm and excitement, of which Michigan and Grand Rapids had their full share. It was Michigan's first presidential election. The national issues were supposed to be of great importance to the state and its future prosperity. For twelve years the nation had been ruled by the Democratic party, under the leadership of Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren. Michigan had been admitted as a Democratic state and was supposed to be in full sympathy with Democratic policies, but the year of Michigan's admission

there was a financial panic which greatly retarded western business enterprises. Land speculation came to a sudden stop and Michigan's brilliant prospects were dimmed. At the outset Michigan democracy was handicapped by unfavorable local conditions, yet the party was well organized, had aggressive leaders, and the prestige of past victories.

On the other hand, the Whigs had a presidential candidate who especially appealed to the imagination and prejudices of western people. William Henry Harrison, of Ohio, was a pioneer who from boyhood had always been identified with the West, its hopes, its progress, its enthusiasm, and its development. He had the odor of gunpowder, had fought at Tippecanoe, had been in the War of 1812, had helped develop the resources of the Northwest and make Michigan a state. He was supposed to stand for better times and better money. In that campaign "log cabins," "hard cider," and "coon skins" were the symbols of the Whig party and especially appealed to the settlers of the West. Thus for the first time in American political campaigns there were great mass meetings, monstrous parades and enormous processions, with log cabins and canoes on wheels, decked with banners, streamers and gewgaws, and drawn by ten to forty yokes of oxen. At that time Grand Rapids was too small and the surrounding territory too sparsely settled for a great demonstration, but there was a great Whig mass meeting at Kalamazoo, where a log cabin was erected, hard cider abounded, and Whig enthusiasm had full sway. The chief speaker was George Dawson, editor of the Detroit Advertiser. Many Grand Rapids Whigs were present at that meeting. Among the young Democrat orators in that campaign was Thomas B. Church, of Marshall, who two years later came to Grand Rapids, which ever after was his home. The result in state and nation was a Whig victory, but Kent county went Democratic by one majority.

In 1844 the campaign was more quiet, nevertheless on October 11th there was a Democratic political meeting at "The Village of Grand Rapids," which was held in the afternoon. Lucius Lyon was president, and the orator was John S. Chipman, of St. Joseph county, Democratic candidate for Congress. In the evening, "at early candle light," there was another meeting at which F. J. Littlejohn, of Allegan, candidate for state senator,



together with Chipman, were the speakers. At the election Kent county went Democratic by eighty-eight majority.

The campaign of 1848 was noted because Michigan for the first and only time had a presidential candidate nominated by one of the leading political parties. General Lewis Cass, of Detroit, was nominated by the Democratic National Convention. Each political party had a large mass meeting at Grand Rapids. The Democrats were addressed, on October 24, at the Congregational Church, by Charles E. Stuart, of Kalamazoo, member of Congress, and free dinners at the hotels were given to all good Democrats from out of town. The Whig mass meeting was held on the public square and addressed by Zachariah Chandler, of Detroit, who then made his first appearance before a Grand Rapids audience as a political speaker, but who spoke here nearly every campaign thereafter until his death, in 1879. For thirty years he was a favorite speaker with the Whigs and Republicans of western Michigan. In 1848 the Whigs carried the township of Grand Rapids, which then included the village, by twenty-four majority.

In 1850 there was a state constitutional convention, at which Rix Robinson and Thomas B. Church were the delegates from Kent county.

The campaign of 1852 was lively at Grand Rapids. On October 2 the Whigs held a mass meeting on the public square, which was addressed by Zachariah Chandler. On October 14 a Democratic mass meeting was held at the same place, which was addressed by General Cass. During his speech the speakers' platform broke down, which caused shouts of derision from the Whigs that the Democratic platform was rotten. However, the speaker was not disconcerted, for he quickly mounted a wagon, in which was a hickory tree emblematic of Democracy, and pluckily finished his address. In the following election the Democrats carried Grand Rapids and Kent county.

The result of the election of 1852 was to disorganize and ultimately to destroy the Whig party. The Grand Rapids Eagle, which was the Whig newspaper of the town, suspended publication for a time and then resumed publication as an independent Democratic journal. Early in 1854 there was a local meeting of Free Democrats, at which Lovell Moore, Eric Prince, Albert Baxter, Wm. H. Stewart, and Alanson St. Clair were appointed

delegates to a Free Democratic state convention which had been called to meet at Jackson on February 22, 1854. That convention was preliminary to the great state mass convention held at Jackson on July 6, 1854, when the Republican party was born and christened "under the oaks." In the spring of 1854, at the municipal election of Grand Rapids, the so-called "New" Whigs and "Free" Democrats united and defeated the "Regular" Democrats and "Old-line" Whigs by pluralities ranging from forty-seven to one hundred and fifteen. In that year of political strife and party disorganization Grand Rapids had its full share of excitement and enthusiasm. In the state election of 1854 the new party which had been named Republican "under the oaks" carried Grand Rapids in the vote for governor by one majority and Kent county by forty-seven majority. It was the first state election at which Democracy had ever been defeated in Kent county, and great was the rejoicing of its opponents thereat.

The campaign of 1856 was enthusiastic. For the first time political companies organized for drill and parades were formed. At the election the Republicans carried the city for Fremont by four majority and Kent county by five hundred and fifteen. In 1858 there was a brisk campaign. On the evening of October 15th the Republicans held a political meeting at which Kingsley Bingham, Austin Blair and Moses Wisner spoke and enthused their party. On October 23d there was a Democratic mass meeting on the public square, at which Charles E. Stuart, of Kalamazoo, the Democratic candidate for governor, was the speaker. Dr. Johnson was president of the meeting, and during his introductory remarks the speakers' platform broke down and all the speakers' party were thrown down and narrowly escaped injury. Good fortune and good humor prevailed and the speaker of the day at once mounted a farmer's wagon and made his speech. In the evening Thomas B. Church and J. Logan Chipman, of Detroit, spoke in Luce's Hall.

On the evening of May 21, 1860, the Republicans of Grand Rapids held a ratification meeting for the nomination of Lincoln. A bonfire was built in the street, around which was a fence made of "sound Lincoln rails." The meeting was in Luce's Hall. B. B. Church was chairman. Among the speakers were E. Smith, Jr., T. Foot, Jr., and Lowell Hall.

In 1860 Lincoln carried the city by two hundred and ninety-six and Kent county by eleven hundred and seven votes. During the Civil War political feeling was intense at Grand Rapids, and in 1864 Lincoln lost the city by ten votes, but carried the county by four hundred and thirty-two. In 1868 Grant carried the city by three hundred and eleven votes and the county by fifteen hundred and seventy-three votes. In 1872 Grant carried the city by seven hundred and eighty-six and the county by three thousand eight hundred and twenty-eight. In that campaign there was a great Republican mass meeting at Grand Rapids, on October 30, at which Vice-President Colfax, of Indiana, was the speaker.

In 1874 the Republican campaign was opened with a meeting at Luce's Hall, at which Governor Bagley and Senator Chandler were the speakers. In that campaign there was a local innovation in political methods; the Republican candidate for Congress, Hon. William B. Williams, and the Democratic candidate, Hon. M. D. Wilder, held political debates at the principal cities of the district. The one at Grand Rapids was held on October 15, in the Luce building on Ottawa street. Joint political discussions by rival candidates have been unusual in Michigan, but common in many other states. The campaign of that year was closed in Grand Rapids with a mass meeting at the park on October 27, addressed by Senator Ferry.

In 1876 there was an innovation in political methods, and political speakers began traveling by special trains. In that year James G. Blaine, of Maine, who had been a leading candidate for the presidential nomination before the Republican National Convention, spoke at Grand Rapids, on Campau square, the evening of October 23. He came to Grand Rapids by special train and with him were Governor Bagley, Senator Ferry and many other notable Republicans. Many special excursion trains were run into town and visitors were numbered by thousands. It was the leading political event of the local campaign. At the following election the Republican candidate for President carried the city by one thousand three hundred and ninety-three and the county by one thousand seven hundred and twenty-five.

The campaign of 1878 was an exciting one for the city of Grand Rapids. The Greenback movement had become a storm

in Michigan, and Grand Rapids was its center. In 1876 the Greenbackers had polled more than a thousand votes in the city and made a good showing throughout the state. In the local elections of the state in the spring of 1878 they had displayed surprising and unexpected strength and vigor. In Grand Rapids Henry S. Smith was elected mayor on the Greenback ticket by a large vote and the following summer was nominated by his party as a candidate for governor, with excellent prospects of success.

Such were the political conditions of Michigan when Zachariah Chandler was chosen chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, at the same time being chairman of the Republican National Committee. He at once gave his entire time to the state campaign. For thirty years he had been in the political harness and knew Michigan as it was known by no other man. He knew the resources and business of Michigan. He was well acquainted with both the politicians and the men of affairs in the state. He knew their history, their environment, their motives, their influences, and their ambitions. He thoroughly understood the game of politics and had played it for high stakes as chairman of the Republican National Committee in the disputed presidential election of 1876. At the opening of the state campaign in 1878 he told his friends in secret conference that Michigan was lost to Republicans, but could and should be redeemed. Confidently he predicted the result. The most vigorous and active campaign in the political history of Michigan followed. Chandler visited all parts of the state, speaking and organizing. He kept his word in carrying the state, but could not carry Grand Rapids. The city gave Smith four hundred and eighty-six plurality. In that campaign James A. Garfield, of Ohio, spoke at Powers Opera House on the evening of October 22, and Judge Harlan presided. After the meeting the speaker went with his brother to the latter's home in Jamestown, Ottawa county, where for many years he had been a farmer while the statesman was winning name and fame in Congress. Four years later James A. Garfield was elected President of the United States. The brother's family still live at the old home, about sixteen miles from the city.

During the political campaign of 1884 James G. Blaine, as the Republican candidate for President, visited Grand Rapids a second time. In his party were John C. Fremont, first Republican candidate for President; Senator Hale, of Maine; Russell A. Al-

ger, Republican candidate for governor of Michigan, and other distinguished citizens of the state. The party came from the north on the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad by special train on October 15. The speaking was on Campau square, and the Hon. John C. FitzGerald, the Republican candidate for Congress, presided. On October 25 the Democrats had a large meeting, at which General Rosecrans, of California, and Hon. Wm. P. Wells, of Detroit, were the speakers.

In 1886, on October 18, John Sherman, of Ohio, spoke in Powers Opera House, and John C. FitzGerald was chairman of the meeting. On October 30 Cyrus E. Luce, of Branch county, Republican candidate for governor, and Hon. E. S. Lacey spoke in Grand Rapids.

In the political campaign of 1888 Grand Rapids was alive with excitement and enthusiasm. Hartman Hall, which is now the Auditorium, had just been completed, and for the first time the city had an audience room capable of accommodating large numbers. There were many large gatherings addressed by speakers from abroad and by local talent. Governor Luce, of Michigan; Governor Hastings, of Pennsylvania; Governor Lucius Fairchild, of Wisconsin, and Congressman Richard Guenther, Governor Solon Chase, of Maine; Fred Douglas, the colored orator; James G. Blaine, Adam E. King, of Maryland; Frank Plumley, of Vermont; Charles J. Noyes, of Massachusetts, and John M. Thurston, of Nebraska, spoke for the Republicans, while Congressman Ford, Edwin F. Uhl, Wellington R. Burt, of Saginaw; Don M. Dickinson, of Detroit; Senator Jones, of Florida; General James B. Weaver, of Iowa; General J. C. Black, of Illinois; General I. F. Farnsworth, of Illinois; Henry W. Robinson, John J. Enwright and John W. McGrath, of Detroit advocated the principles of Democracy.

In 1890 there was only one large political meeting at which was a speaker of national reputation, and that was on October 14, when William McKinley first spoke in Grand Rapids. He had recently become a great national character from being chairman of the Congressional Committee of Ways and Means, which had framed a tariff bill, enacted into law and known as the McKinley Bill. The McKinley tariff bill was the issue of the campaign. McKinley's congressional district in Ohio had been gerrymandered by a Democratic legislature so that he had a majority of

about three thousand votes to overcome. His personal campaign attracted national attention, and his speeches and meetings were reported by special correspondents for the metropolitan journals. He was holding two and three meetings a day.

He and Congressman Burrows, of Michigan, were close personal and political friends and colleagues in Congressional Committee work. Early in the campaign of 1890 Mr. Burrows spoke for McKinley in his Ohio district and McKinley reciprocated by coming to the congressional district of Mr. Burrows and making three speeches, two at afternoon meetings and one at an evening meeting. When the Grand Rapids Republican Committee learned that McKinley was coming to Michigan to make three speeches in the Fourth Congressional District and that for one evening he was not engaged, they determined to secure him for that evening if possible. The mail and telegraph were freely used, but no satisfaction could be obtained. On the morning of October 13 Henry M. Rose, who was then chairman of the Republican County Committee and who since has become chief clerk of the United States Senate, and Dwight Goss, the secretary of the Republican Congressional Committee, went to Dowagiac, where McKinley was to speak in the afternoon. The future President readily promised to come to Grand Rapids for an evening's speech, provided he could reach Orville, Ohio, the next day by eleven o'clock in the forenoon so that he could drive to Fredericksburg, fourteen miles distant, where he had an appointment for one o'clock. The railroad time tables were quickly consulted and it was soon ascertained that the journey could not be made by regular trains. The telegraph was freely used and before ten o'clock that night arrangements were completed for a meeting at Grand Rapids on the evening of October 14 and for a special train to take the speaker to Ohio at its close. Only twelve hours' notice of the meeting could be given the public, but the evening saw the largest audience ever gathered at that time under a Grand Rapids roof. Hartman Hall had just been enlarged, and the McKinley meeting was the first gathering within its walls after the improvement. William Alden Smith presided. After the meeting the speaker went by special car to his Ohio home, escorted by Henry M. Rose, George I. Quimby, William Aldrich Tateum, and John Widdicomb. The McKinley meeting cost the Grand Rapids Republicans a large sum of money, but the pleasure of the meeting was their only reward

for at the ensuing election their forces were routed; county, district, state, and nation went over to Democracy. McKinley himself was defeated, but his defeat for Congress made him governor of Ohio and landed him in the White House.

The campaign of 1892 was opened on September 27 with a big Republican meeting at Hartman Hall, at which John T. Rich, Republican candidate for governor; Ex-Governor Luce and J. Sloat Fassett, of New York, were the speakers. John Patton presided.

The political campaign of 1892 was opened by the Democrats with a meeting at Hartman Hall on October 19, at which Edwin F. Uhl presided and Congressman William Springer, of Illinois, was the speaker, who was then one of the party leaders in Congress. The next evening Senator Frey, of Maine, spoke at the same place for the Republicans. Smith G. Ketcham, chairman of the Republican Congressional Committee, was chairman of the meeting. Before the meeting Senator Frey, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, was given a reception at the Morton House by the Grand Rapids Board of Trade.

The campaign closed with a big Democratic meeting, at which Edwin F. Uhl and A. B. Morse, of Ionia, the Democratic candidate for governor, were the speakers. T. F. McGarry presided.

The leading local event of the campaign in 1894 was the second visit of William McKinley, who spoke at Hartman Hall on October 12. The meeting was called to order by Col. L. K. Bishop, and William Alden Smith presided. Major McKinley came by special train from the east on the Grand Trunk, where he had spoken at Owosso, St. Johns and Ionia. He was the guest of General Alger in the latter's private car. In the party was Governor Rich and many other leading Republicans of Michigan. A large delegation of local Republicans met the party at Ionia, and all came together to the city.

In 1896 the Democratic candidate for President, William J. Bryan came to Grand Rapids, and his visit was a landmark in Grand Rapids political history. He came by special train on October 15 and made three speeches, one on Campau square, one at Powers Opera House, where Col. Aldrich presided, and one at the Auditorium, where William F. McKnight was chairman. The presidential candidate was under special obligations to his Grand Rapids political friends who had carried on a fight for the princi-

ples which he represented not only in the state convention which nominated delegates, but also successfully in the national convention at Chicago, where there was a contest between the Free Silver Democrats of Michigan and the Gold Democrats. It was largely the action of the Grand Rapids Democrats that unseated the Gold Democratic delegates and secured the entire vote of Michigan in the convention for Free Silver and Bryan. The result was that Grand Rapids gave Bryan in 1896 the greatest political demonstration ever seen in western Michigan.

On October 10, 1896, the Gold Democrats had a meeting at Grand Rapids, at which their candidates for President and Vice-President, General Palmer, of Illinois, and General Buckner, of Kentucky, were present. They spoke at Powers Opera House, where John S. Lawrence presided. At the Auditorium Bourke Cochran, the great New York orator, spoke at a meeting presided over by Don M. Dickinson, of Detroit.

The Auditorium meeting was stormy and turbulent, for many of the audience were Free Silver Democrats who at the beginning often interrupted the speaker with calls and questions, but Cochran was accustomed to political storms and soon commanded respect and attention by his presence and his genius, his invective and his sarcasm, his wit and his oratory. No one who attended will ever forget the meeting or the speaker.

The campaign of 1898 was opened by the Republicans with a meeting at the Auditorium, at which Fred A. Maynard presided and Congressman McCleary, of Minnesota, and Governor Pingree were the speakers. The meeting was memorable because Governor Pingree in his speech made a personal attack upon some of his party associates. On November 5 Justin R. Whiting, of St. Clair, Democratic candidate for governor, and Mayor Perry were the speakers at a Democratic meeting at Powers Opera House. On November 7, 1898, the campaign closed with a Republican meeting at the Auditorium, at which Senator Burrows and Congressman Smith were the speakers.

In 1900 there were several important political meetings in Grand Rapids. On September 7 the campaign was opened by the Republicans with a meeting at which their candidate for Vice-President, Theodore Roosevelt, was the principal speaker. He came by special train and in his party were Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee G. J. Diekema, Governor Bliss,



Congressmen E. L. Hamilton and H. C. Smith, Charles Moore, secretary to Senator McMillan, and other eminent men. There was an immense street parade, in which Roosevelt was escorted by a company of Rough Riders. His immediate guard of honor were two members of his regiment in the Cuban campaign, W. Frank Knox, of Grand Rapids, who was then connected with the Grand Rapids Herald, and J. Ogden Wells, of Benton Harbor.

Michigan furnished four members of Roosevelt's famous regiment, of whom the two mentioned above survived the conflict. Roosevelt made his chief speech at the Auditorium. E. D. Conger called the meeting to order and William Alden Smith presided. Congressman E. L. Hamilton and Congressman H. C. Smith spoke at Powers Opera House, and R. B. Loomis was chairman of the meeting at which Roosevelt appeared late in the evening and made a short address.

On September 22 there was a Democratic meeting at the Auditorium, at which Mayor Perry presided. The speakers were Mayor David S. Rose, of Milwaukee, and Senator Wellington, of Maryland, who had been elected a Republican but had become alienated from his party and was advocating the election of Wm. J. Bryan for President.

On October 10 William J. Bryan spoke a second time in a political campaign at Grand Rapids. There were two meetings, one on Campau square at which L. K. Salisbury presided, and one in the Auditorium at which William F. McKnight presided. On October 18 Webster Davis, of Kansas City, spoke at a Democratic meeting at the Auditorium. On October 22 A. E. Stevenson, the Democratic candidate for Vice-President, spoke on Campau square; D. M. Amberg introduced the speaker.

On the night before election Wm. F. McKnight, the Democratic candidate for Congress, spoke in Powers Opera House and Congressman Smith spoke in the Auditorium.

In 1902 the campaign was quiet. On September 25 the campaign opened with a Republican meeting at the Auditorium, at which General Alger and Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, were the speakers. Congressman Smith presided.

On October 30 the Democrats held a meeting in the Auditorium, at which their candidate for governor, L. T. Durand, of Saginaw; their candidate for Congress, M. H. Walker; their candidate for the State Senate, W. W. Hyde; and W. F. McKnight were the

speakers. On the night before election, in accordance with his usual custom, Congressman Wm. Alden Smith closed the campaign for the Republicans with a speech at the Auditorium.

In 1904 the first large meeting of the campaign was held by the Democrats on October 20, at the Auditorium. Their candidate for governor, Woodbridge N. Ferris, was the speaker; Charles R. Sligh presided. On October 25 the Republicans held a meeting at the Auditorium, at which the Republican candidate for governor, Fred M. Warner, and Senator Charles W. Fairbanks, of Indiana, Republican candidate for Vice-President, were the speakers. William Alden Smith presided. On November 3 the Republicans held another meeting, at which Leslie M. Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury, was the speaker. Judge Alfred Wolcott presided.

In recent years the "mass meeting" as a means for arousing political enthusiasm and disseminating political knowledge has largely fallen into disuse. The writer has become a more potent power than the speaker. Newspapers go into every home and political committees use the press in place of the platform. Yet the people enjoy politics and doubtless the time will never come when the citizens of Grand Rapids will not have political meetings and hear political speeches.

Of recent years Grand Rapids, owing to its excellent railroad facilities, commodious hotels and convenient public halls, has become a popular convention city and has seen many notable political state conventions. All the state political conventions of 1886 were held in Grand Rapids. The Republican state convention was held in Powers Opera House on August 25.

Before the convention assembled on the 26th for balloting there were several rival candidates for the nomination of governor, but before a vote was taken all but one withdrew, and Cyrus G. Luce was nominated by acclamation. That year the Greenback party and the Democratic party had separate state organizations, but called their state conventions for the same days, August 17 and 18. The Greenbacks met at Powers Opera House and the Democrats met at Redmond's Opera House.

Conference Committees were appointed and fusion was arranged. There were many dramatic incidents connected with the conventions. In the Democratic convention Don M. Dickinson, of Detroit, was a delegate who had been recently made Post-

master General in President Cleveland's Cabinet, and whose position, entitled him to be considered the leading Democrat of the state. In the invocation the minister forgot to mention the President of the United States. Dickinson quickly noticed the oversight, and no sooner was the prayer ended than he was on his feet, stating that all good Democrats should remember Grover Cleveland in their orisons. At that time many Michigan Democrats did not admire Cleveland, whose policy of appointments in the public service had displeased and estranged many of his party workers, and apparently Dickinson was taking chances in calling public attention to the omission, but he did it with such fine fervor, exquisite tact and good taste that he caught his hearers and scored a nice point for his chief. It took much diplomacy to secure a union of the parties, and many good speeches for incitement and excitement were made before the details were finally arranged and a ticket nominated. The disinterested spectators had a rare treat of brilliant oratory and political finesse before the conventions adjourned.

In 1894 the Republican state convention was held in Hartman Hall, and Governor John T. Rich was renominated as the Republican candidate.

On August 5, 1896, the Republican state convention was again held in Hartman Hall and there was a battle royal for the gubernatorial nomination between Hazen S. Pingree, of Detroit, and Aaron T. Bliss, of Saginaw, with James O'Donnell, of Jackson; D. D. Aitkin, of Flint; A. O. Wheeler, of Manistee, and Harry A. Conant, of Monroe, as minor candidates. Pingree and Bliss held the center of the stage; the others were supernumeraries in the political play. Charles F. Flowers, of Detroit, presented Pingree's name, Benton Hanchett presented the name of Bliss, Charles E. Townsend the name of O'Donnell, Judge Wisner, of Flint, the name of Aitkin, Judge McAlvay, of Manistee, the name of Wheeler, and Burton Parker, of Monroe, that of Conant. The contest was close and exciting until the end of the fourth ballot, when Pingree received sufficient votes to nominate him.

The Republican state convention of 1896 was exciting, but that of 1900 was more so. It was held in the Auditorium on June 27. There were three leading candidates for governor, Aaron T. Bliss, of Saginaw; Dexter M. Ferry, of Detroit, and Justus S. Stearns, of Ludington for the main show, with James O'Donnell,

of Jackson; Chase S. Osborn, of Sault Ste. Marie, and Milo D. Campbell, of Coldwater, for minor attractions. For weeks there had been an exciting canvass for delegates. Many a county had been debatable ground from the first primary to the final vote in the county convention. For months each leading candidate had maintained political headquarters and kept political managers at work. Close watch was kept of the delegates as they were named in the several counties and before the state convention met it was well known that no candidate had a majority and that the leaders were quite equally balanced. D. P. Markey, of Port Huron, was both temporary and permanent chairman of the convention. The nominating speeches were made as follows: Victor M. Gore, of Benton Harbor, nominated Ferry; Watts S. Humphrey, of Saginaw, nominated Bliss; Lewis G. Palmer, of Big Rapids, nominated Stearns; Charles Blair, of Jackson, nominated O'Donnell; O. N. Larson, of Calumet, nominated Osborn, and George H. Turner, of Coldwater, nominated Campbell. The first ballot commenced at four o'clock in the afternoon and was a test of strength. It resulted in Ferry receiving 251, Bliss 259, and Stearns 215. From four o'clock until ten o'clock ten ballots were taken, with no intermission for supper and little change in the situation. On the tenth ballot Ferry received 290, Bliss 280, and Stearns 206. Then the exhausted convention adjourned for the day. The next morning seven ballots were taken, with little change in the situation except slight gains for Bliss. On the seventeenth ballot Ferry received 249, Bliss 299, and Stearns 191. The convention then adjourned for dinner. After dinner, on the eighteenth ballot, an effort was made to turn the Ferry forces to O'Donnell and nominate the Jackson man, but it did not succeed. The result was an increase of Bliss votes. On the nineteenth ballot there was a grand rush to the Saginaw man and he was nominated after the most exciting contest and stormy convention ever seen in Michigan. In the convention Kent county and Grand Rapids had a prominent part. Of the Kent delegation ten were for Bliss and thirty-seven were for Stearns. Amos S. Musselman was its chairman. When the break came all went to Bliss.

Among the close and exciting municipal campaigns of Grand Rapids none have ever excelled those of 1888 and 1889. In those days nominating conventions were held only a few days before election. In 1887 the Democrats had elected their ticket and con-

trolled the city administration. In 1888 I. M. Westson was chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee and was credited with having political ambitions. At the Democratic city convention in 1888 he was nominated for Mayor. He was an active, energetic campaigner and in a few hours the city was roused by his efforts. The Republicans were apparently beaten before the contest commenced, but they held their convention the next night and nominated C. E. Belknap, who four years before had been elected Mayor. In a few hours the Republicans were as thoroughly enthused as the Democrats. Placards, hand bills, and streamers were flying, carriages were going, and street corners were crowded by anxious men discussing city politics. When the ballots were counted Weston had won by nine majority in a total vote of more than nine thousand. That was considered a record breaker for a close election, but the next year the same scenes were repeated. John Killean was nominated by the Democrats and Chas. W. Watkins by the Republicans. There was a vote of 10,443 in the city and Killean won by three. In those days Democrats won hard-earned victories.

Before the Australian ballot system was adopted and before there was any reform legislation concerning the manner of voting and preparing ballots a polling place was an exciting scene. Each ward of Grand Rapids had but one place for voting and as high as 16 or 17 hundred votes often went into a single ballot box. Each side generally had several paid workers to peddle tickets and electioneer about the polling place. The voter had to run a gauntlet of excited men, each eager to advise and assist him in preparing his vote. All manner of solicitation and influence was permissible and practiced. A man with weak will power had little chance of a free ballot. Anxious poll workers were ready and watching to secure his vote for favorite candidates. Some workers were engaged in soliciting votes for an entire ticket; others were working for particular candidates. The result was that a weak man was pulled hither and yon and frequently did not know how he voted and didn't care so long as he escaped from his tormentors. In those days the prerogatives of American citizenship were not always easy of exercise.

Among the elections of the past that have especially interested Grand Rapids none were more strenuously contested than the Congressional election of 1888, or, as it is generally remembered, the

Ford-Belknap campaign. In 1886 Milbourne H. Ford was elected to Congress from the Fifth Congressional District of Michigan by four hundred and forty-seven majority. The Fifth District then included four counties, Allegan, Ottawa, Kent and Ionia. Personally Ford was exceedingly popular in Grand Rapids and his district, and during the first session of his Congressional career made an exceedingly brilliant record. He was appointed chairman of a special committee to investigate foreign immigration, and the work of his committee made him a national figure. Ford was an ideal campaigner. He was a ready and witty stump speaker; never forgot a face or a name and had a genial personality that attracted attention and made friends. He was short of stature and when first elected he received many complimentary Republican votes. The district was generally considered naturally Republican, but for three campaigns, in 1882, in 1884 and in 1886, it had gone Democratic by small majorities. Could Democrats win a fourth time? With a popular candidate like Ford Democratic victory seemed probable. The Republicans were alarmed and nominated Charles E. Belknap, who the preceding spring had come within ten votes of being elected mayor of Grand Rapids. Belknap had never been a public speaker, but was well known in Kent county and was personally popular. If he could hold down the Democratic vote in Kent county, the other counties, which were Republican, would elect him. Both parties organized political committees more thoroughly and raised larger campaign funds than were ever before known. Hartman Hall had just been completed and large campaign meetings were held there every week. Speakers of national reputation were sent to Grand Rapids. The city became a storm center of political activity. For weeks before the election political newspapers and documents were daily placed at every man's door in the city. There were great parades and processions. In public and in private nothing but politics was discussed. Apparently national issues were ignored, and the presidential candidates were forgotten in watching the congressional race. As the campaign progressed excitement increased and men began to bet on the result. Soon there was a mania of gambling on the result in the city. Men who never before or since gambled in any manner wagered large sums on the congressional election. Men of wealth to whom money was of no account bet large sums for political effect. On the day of election there

was not the usual excitement about the polls. Voters apparently had made up their minds and voted without regard to bullying electioneering methods. When the result was known the Republicans had won. Belknap carried every county in the district. National politics had had their effect upon the local situation. In the presidential election few complimentary votes were given. Ford was defeated, but at the next election he was again a candidate and elected by nearly as large a majority as he had been defeated by in 1888. He suddenly died in 1891 before the first session of his second term in Congress commenced.

In 1892 there was a close congressional election in the Fifth Congressional District. The candidates were Charles E. Belknap and George F. Richardson. On the face of the original returns Belknap was elected by 18 votes, but there were recounts in Ionia and Kent counties, and by the recounts Richardson was declared elected by 10 votes and an election certificate issued to him. The matter was taken to the Supreme Court of Michigan and the canvassing board of Ionia county was compelled to canvass the original returns and the State Board of Canvassers were compelled to issue a new certificate of election to Belknap. The matter was brought before Congress and referred to the committee on elections. Richardson was the sitting member and the House was Democratic. A hearing was had before the committee on elections, but no report was ever made to the House. The result was that Richardson held his seat to the close of his term. At that election the members of the Soldiers' Home voted. At a subsequent election they again voted and their votes were called in question and the matter taken before the courts. The Supreme Court held that under the Michigan constitution as it then was they could not vote. Soon after the constitution was amended, allowing them to vote, and ever since inmates of the Soldiers' Home have been legal voters. In its legal complications the Belknap-Richardson contest became as celebrated as the Belknap-Ford campaign had been exciting in its political aspects.

Following are the names of State Governors, with dates of beginning of terms:

Term Began.		Terms Began	
Stevens T. Mason.....	1835	Henry H. Crapo.....	1865
William Woodbridge.....	1840	Henry P. Baldwin... ..	1869
J. W. Gordon (acting)....	1841	John J. Bagley.....	1873

John S. Barry.....	1842	Charles M. Croswell.....	1877
Alpheus Felch .....	1846	David H. Jerome.....	1881
Wm. L. Greenly (acting)...	1847	Josiah W. Begole.....	1883
Epaphroditus Ransom....	1848	Russell A. Alger.....	1885
John S. Barry.....	1850	Cyrus G. Luce.....	1887
Robert McClelland.....	1852	Edwin B. Winans.....	1891
Andrew Parsons (acting)...	1853	John T. Rich.....	1893
Kinsley S. Bingham.....	1855	Hazen S. Pingree.....	1897
Moses Wisner.....	1859	Aaron T. Bliss.....	1901
Austin Blair.....	1861	Fred M. Warner.....	1905

Of the other State officers, those chosen or appointed from Grand Rapids and vicinity have been: Lieutenant-Governor—Moreau S. Crosby, 1881 to 1885. Secretaries of State—Charles H. Taylor, 1850 to 1853; Ebenezer G. D. Holden, 1875 to 1879. Attorneys-General—Byron D. Ball, 1873 to 1874; Moses Taggart, 1885 to 1889; Fred A. Maynard, 1895 to 1898. Commissioners of Railroads—Wm. B. Williams, 1877 to 1883; Wm. P. Innes, 1883 to 1885; Sybrant Wesselius, 1897 to 1899. Quartermaster-General—Wm. L. White, 1897 to 1899. Commissioners of Labor Statistics—Scott Griswold, 1901 to 1905. State Oil Inspector—Neal McMillan, 1893 to 1897. Game and Fish Warden—William Alden Smith, 1887 to 1891. Names of members of the Legislature from Kent county are given below in alphabetical order, with years of service:

#### In the Senate.

Andrus, Wesley P.....	1877-78	Loomis, Robert B.....	1889-92
Ball, Byron D.....	1871-72	Lyon, Truman H.....	1853-54
Barnard, Edmund M....	1893-98	Murray, Lyman.....	1875-76
Bell, Digby V.....	1842-43	Peirce, Peter R. L.....	1869-70
Bridge, Henry P.....	1840-41	Porter, Lewis.....	1859-60
Burns, David E....	1903-04	Richmond, William A.	1844-45
Crosby, Moreau S.....	1873-74	Robinson, Rix.....	1846-49
Curtiss, John L.....	1885-86	Russell, Henry C.....	1881-82
Doran, Peter.....	1891-94	Russell, Huntley.....	1905
Foster, Wilder D.....	1855-56	Seymour, Henry.....	1867-68
Fyfe, Andrew.....	1905	Stark, George P.....	1887-88
Graham, Robert D....	1899-00	Watkins, Milton C....	1863-66
Hine, James W.....	1883-84	Weeks, Augustus W...	1901-04
Hine, Milton B.....	1879-80	Wesselius, Sybrant....	1889-90
Jamison, Julius M....	1895-96	Withey, Solomon L....	1861-62
Lapham, Smith.....	1857-58		



**In the House.**

Adams, Edgar J.....	1897-00	Hunt, Leonard H.....	1887-88
Anderson, Jeremiah H.	1893-94	Jewell, Edward.....	1865-67
Anderson, Jeremiah H.	1897-00	Johnson, Simeon M. .	1843-44
Anderson, Jeremiah H.	1903-04	Johnson, Welcome W..	1877-78
Allen, George W.....	1859-60	Judd, George E.....	1889-90
Almy, John.....	1837-38	Kellogg, Francis W....	1857-58
Baldwin, Simeon L. .	1877-78	Killean, John.....	1887-88
Ball, John.....	1838-39	Kingsbury, Solomon O.	1867-68
Barnaby, H. T.....	1901-04	Ladner, Frank.....	1903-05
Barnard, Edmund M..	1891-92	Lapham, Smith.....	1855-56
Beers, Philo.....	1850-51	McCormick, Henry F..	1879-80
Briggs, Edward L....	1873-74	McGill, C. W.....	1897-98
Briggs, George G. . .	1869-72	McMillan, Neal.....	1887-90
Britton, Roswell.....	1835-36	Mapes, Carl E. . . .	1905
Burfoot, Edmund....	1899-00	Moulton, Luther V....	1879-80
Burns, David E.....	1901-02	Nash, Edward P.....	1899-02
Caukin, Volney W....	1857-58	Palmerlee, Heman....	1831-82
Cheney, Amherst B....	1877-80	Porter, John.....	1863-64
Chilver, Arthur H....	1895-96	Porter, Lewis.....	1857-58
Church, Thomas B....	1851-56	Powers, William H....	1879-80
Davis, William R....	1869-70	Prindle, C. W.....	1877-82
Dillon, Joseph.....	1887-88	Ransom, James W. ....	1875-76
Dockeray, James.....	1863-64	Sellers, L. McKnight..	1883-86
Earle, Nathaniel A....	1881-82	Seymour, Henry.....	1865-66
Eggleston, Ebenczer S.	1873-74	Shoemaker, DeWitt....	1853-54
Ellis, George E.....	1905	Slayton, Thomas J....	1867-70
Fallass, Silas S.....	1859-62	Smith, Henry C.....	1849-54
Ferry, Asa P.....	1871-72	Stark, George P.....	1885-86
Finney, Noble H.....	1839	Tateum, Wm. Aldrich..	1893-94
Fitch, Norton.....	1891-94	Taylor, Charles H....	1847-48
Fletcher, Niram A....	1883-84	Taylor, William H....	1861-62
Ford, Melbourne H. .	1855-56	Thompson, George W..	1883-84
Garfield, Charles W..	1881-82	Train, Jarvis C.....	1883-84
Garfield, Samuel M. .	1871-76	Ulrich, Madison J....	1885-86
Gilbert, Thomas D. .	1861-62	Vandercook, Henry B..	1901-04
Gill, Frank H.....	1889-90	Van Zoeren, Jacob J..	1901-04
Graham, Robert D....	1895-98	Walker, Charles I....	1841
Griswold, Augustus D.	1863-65	Ware, Joseph Bruff...	1895-95
Haire, John.....	1861-62	Watkins, Erwin C....	1873-76
Heald, Henry T.....	1905	Watkins, Milton C....	1859-60
Hayward, John W....	1891-92	Weeks, Augustus W....	1893-96
Hill, Nicholas R.....	1871-72	White, Arthur S.....	1891-94
Holden, Charles.....	1895-96	White, George H.....	1863-64
Houseman, Julius.....	1871-72		

**Speakers of the House from Grand Rapids.**

Tateum, Wm. Aldrich...1893-94    Adams, Edgar J.....1899-00

**National Representation.**

In national affairs have served men more or less closely identified with Grand Rapids and the counties now comprising the Fifth Congressional District of Michigan, as follows: As Presidential Electors—In 1848, Rix Robinson; in 1856, William H. Withey; in 1864, Thomas D. Gilbert; in 1872 and 1876, William A. Howard; in 1880, Aaron B. Turner; in 1884, Geo. G. Steketee; in 1888, Don J. Leathers; in 1892, Conrad S. Swenberg; in 1900, John A. S. Verdier, and in 1904, Robert B. Loomis. Territorial Delegate to Congress—1833-35, Lucius Lyon. In the United States Senate—1836-40, Lucius Lyon; 1871-83, Thomas W. Ferry; 1894-95, John Patton, Jr. In the United States House of Representatives—1843-45, Lucius Lyon; 1861-65, Francis W. Kellogg; 1865-71, Thomas W. Ferry; 1871-73, Wilder D. Foster; 1873-77, William B. Williams; 1877-81, John W. Stone; 1881-83, George W. Webber; 1883-85, Julius Houseman; 1885-87, Charles C. Comstock; 1887-89, Melbourne H. Ford; 1889-91, Charles E. Belknap; 1891, Melbourne H. Ford; 1891-93, Charles E. Belknap; 1893-95, George F. Richardson; 1895-1907, William Alden Smith.

State Treasurer—Daniel McCoy, 1901 to 1905.

Regents of the University of Michigan—Lucius Lyon, 1837 to 1839; Thomas D. Gilbert, 1864 to 1876; Lyman D. Norris, 1883; Roger W. Butterfield, 1888 to 1904; Loyal E. Kueffen, 1905.

Justices of the Supreme Court—George Martin, 1851 to 1867; John W. Champlin, 1884 to 1892; Robert M. Montgomery, 1892 to 1906.

The state of Michigan has had several senatorial contests in which Grand Rapids was especially interested. Lucius Lyon, of Grand Rapids, became United States Senator when Michigan was admitted, in 1837, having been elected November 16, 1835. He continued in office until 1840. For many years western Michigan was not represented in the upper house, but on January 17, 1871, Thomas W. Ferry, of Grand Haven, was elected senator and continued in office until 1883. In 1887 there was a contest in which Grand Rapids furnished a candidate in the person of Hon. John C. FitzGerald, but the prize finally went to Francis B. Stock-

bridge, of Kalamazoo. Stockbridge died in 1894, and Hon. John Patton, Jr., of Grand Rapids, was appointed his successor by Governor Rich, May 5, 1894. When the legislature met in January, 1895, there was a lively contest for the election, but Hon. J. C. Burrows, of Kalamazoo, was nominated and elected.

In the lower house of Congress Grand Rapids has frequently furnished the representative. From 1833 to 1835 Michigan had for a territorial delegate Lucius Lyon, an early settler of Grand Rapids. In 1842 he was elected a member of Congress and served a single term. In 1870 Wilder D. Foster, of Grand Rapids, was elected to Congress and continued in office until his death, in 1873. In 1882 Julius Houseman, of Grand Rapids, was elected to Congress and served the district for one term, when Charles C. Comstock, of Grand Rapids, was elected. He served for a single term and was followed by Melbourne H. Ford, of Grand Rapids, who served a single term and was then defeated by Charles E. Belknap, of Grand Rapids, who served a single term. In 1890 Ford was again elected, but died before he had taken his seat for his second term. Belknap was again elected to fill the unexpired term. In 1894 William Alden Smith, of Grand Rapids, was elected to Congress, and has been re-elected for each term since that date.

## CHAPTER XXIX.

### EVENTS OF CITY LIFE.

1850. From the village to the city form of government the transition was easy and without friction, and the new municipality started smoothly. May 15, Canton Smith, Edmund B. Bostwick and ten others started for California. Bostwick died on the overland journey, and on receipt of the news there was a public meeting and general demonstration of sorrow. The first menagerie that ever visited Grand Rapids exhibited May 20, on the public square. It was estimated that 5,000 people were in attendance. July 13 there was a large meeting on the public square, in respect to the memory of President Zachary Taylor, who died July 9, and on the Sunday following memorial sermons were preached in the churches. A daily stage from Jackson, making the third daily line into the city, was established, and soon another was added, from Kalamazoo. August 11, St. Andrew's Catholic church was consecrated. Early in December a break in the embankment opposite the foot of Erie street drained the canal, and stopped the mills for several weeks. Two prisoners, held on the charge of counterfeiting, escaped from jail.

1851. According to the newspaper reports the first grand event of the year was of a celestial character—"a very brilliant exhibition of northern lights," January 21. The Rev. Joseph Penney entertained the public during the winter with a series of philosophical lectures. There was high water in the river at the end of February, and steam navigation began March 17. Judge Edward Mundy died March 13. April 7 an act was passed by the legislature providing for the completion of the east side canal and locks, and the removal of the dam to a point down the river. The part pertaining to the locks was never carried into effect. On the first of May there was a cold storm, with several inches of snow. Rains in the early part of June raised the river to overflowing banks. There was much building of stores and shops on the business streets, and Kendall's addition was dotted over with neat dwelling houses.

1852. January 17, the Grand Rapids Bridge Company obtained a concession to erect a toll bridge across the river at Bridge street. There was a great increase in the land plaster trade that winter, and large quantities were carried south in sleighs. The demand outran the supply. In March occurred the heaviest flood in Grand river since February, 1838. At its highest stage, March 16 and 17, the river steamboats came into Waterloo street, in front of the Eagle hotel, and into Pearl street at its junction with Monroe. The waters subsided as rapidly as they rose, and in two weeks business assumed its usual activity. The flood left Canal street strewn with stranded logs. Snow fell on election day, April 5, to the depth of six or eight inches. On May 1 was the burglary of Aaron Dikeman's jewelry store, at which about \$500 worth of goods were taken. The thief was not caught. On June 30 the city was hung with black, on account of the news of the death of Henry Clay, and in the afternoon a memorial meeting was held. During the latter part of the year there was much talk on railroad and plank road projects, but little was done. A correspondent of the Rochester American wrote a glowing prediction that Grand Rapids would be "in a few years a city of ten thousand inhabitants," and was "destined to rank as the second place in the state."

1853. Little of historic interest occurred in the beginning of the year. West Grand Rapids had taken a start, and business was growing rapidly in that part of the city. A boiler for the steamer Michigan was drawn from Kalamazoo by five pairs of horses on trucks, arriving February 7. An enthusiastic railroad meeting was held February 25, at which resolutions were passed commendatory of the project of the Oakland and Ottawa and Port Huron and Lake Michigan companies. Several similar meetings were held that year. March 8 a stick 100 feet long, a little over three feet in diameter at the butt, and 16 inches at the tip, was drawn through Monroe street by ten yoke of cattle. It was intended for the mainmast of a lake vessel then building at Michigan City. March 22 the steamer Michigan was launched. March 23 a scow loaded with 250,000 shingles was carried over the dam, the boat destroyed and eight or ten men given a cool bath. May 15 a severe gale of wind unroofed a number of buildings, blew one into the river near the west end of the bridge, and uprooted many trees in the city. Sales of real estate grew active and prices

advanced this season. A contract for building the railroad from Pontiac to Grand Haven was reported, which helped to "push things" in business circles. July 4 an ox weighing 2,360 pounds was converted into beef and sold at a meat market near the National Hotel. July 19, Henry R. Williams, first mayor of the city, died at Buffalo, and on receipt of the news the Common Council passed resolutions of eulogy and condolence. The first large steam saw mill of Powers & Ball was built this year.

1854. This year was marked by few unusual events. Public business ran without friction; in trade there was little or no excitement; fruit was plenty, and table supplies were cheap. In the latter part of the summer heat and drouth prevailed, and there were symptoms of panic from cholera, which was epidemic in Chicago and other western cities. There was an explosion on the steamer Humming Bird, September 2, by which a boy, John McMunn, was killed, and a boatman, James Muir, was badly injured and permanently crippled. The markets were filled with venison toward the end of the year.

1855. In the early months there was severe cold weather. In March the first daily newspaper was started. It was a summer of "dressing up" of streets and sidewalks in the city; though little of substantial and permanent improvement was done. The Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids plank road was completed, which vastly improved and quickened traffic and travel, and gave a new impetus to the growth of population by immigration. No more long and hard day's work over rough and muddy roads to reach Grand Rapids from the Michigan Central railroad. The people began talking of gaslight, and of incoming railroads, and there was a forward movement in real estate and in mercantile business.

1856. Some boat building for Muskegon river and White lake was done here. In that summer a longer run of theatrical amusement was given than ever before, in Collins' Hall, corner of Canal and Erie streets. There was also much building of stores and dwellings. About twenty iron fronts were put in new blocks that season. Many fine residences on the "Fulton Street Hill," toward the east part of the city, were built. Pioneer Joel Guild died May 26. A night mail to Kalamazoo was established in August. September 9 the Taylor and Barns block, a four-story brick structure, on which the workmen were just putting the roof fell in with

a crash. Twenty-eight men were on the building, but fortunately none were killed nor seriously hurt. The block was immediately rebuilt. September 15 a wild bear visiting the east part of the city was shot and killed by Simon L. Baldwin near Fulton and Union streets. The stuffed skin was long used as a sign for a hat store. The carcass weighed 324 pounds, and the meat was sold at a market place.

1857. In February the Supervisors granted a charter for a toll bridge at Leonard street, and in that year the bridge was completed. In the spring the citizens of Grand Rapids were active in raising and sending supplies for the relief of sufferers in Montcalm and Gratiot counties, where there was destitution among the settlers. This year was one of great activity in permanent street improvements. Monroe street was graded and paved with cobblestone, and heavy cuts were made through Prospect hill, on Pearl street, and between Pearl and Monroe on Ottawa street (then known as Justice street). September 25 twenty-five business buildings, on both sides of Monroe street, above Waterloo were burned. This was the first experience in Grand Rapids of a large, fierce conflagration, and it caused great excitement. The loss of property was estimated at above \$75,000. Rebuilding began before the ashes were cold, and in the change from the old to the new there was an abundant opportunity for improvements of various kinds, which were promptly made. Gas jets were lit in the streets November 12, and on the evening of the 13th several stores on Monroe street were lighted with gas for the first time. It was an event of great interest to many who had never before beheld a gas light.

1858. March 22 half a dozen wood buildings near the corner of Canal and Pearl streets (east from Canal) were burned. March 24 the steamer Nawbeck was run over the dam and rapids to the lower river. March 25 John Burke was fatally shot by Sheriff Anson N. Norton, while resisting arrest. Upon judicial examination the sheriff was acquitted of wrong doing. In the evening of election day, April 5, the bridge at Bridge street and several manufactories along the bank at its east end were destroyed by fire. The conflagration was a dazzling sight, the flames ran quickly from end to end of the bridge, which became a continuous sheet of flame across the river, a distance of more than 800 feet. After the fire a foot bridge was thrown across the river, over

which for a time hundreds of persons passed daily. While the bridge company was rebuilding a scow ferry boat was run upon the still water above the dam. Five deaths by drowning in the river occurred during the latter part of June—two sons of James Clidesdell and a son of James Dohany, small boys, on the 22d; Anton Hannish, aged 35, on the 26th, and on the 29th, Charles Dondero, an Italian. The Detroit and Milwaukee railroad bridge was begun, and much building was done near the station at Coldbrook, including freight and passenger depots. June 27 was first heard the whistle of a locomotive and the rattle of a railroad construction train, then nearing the northeastern part of the city. Temperature that day 105 degrees in the shade. Laying of railway bed and track through the city progressed rapidly till the road was formally opened for traffic. July 2 the locomotive *Empire* was steamed down from the station through Canal street to the dock at Pearl street, and transferred by a scow down the river to the western division of the railroad. July 12 the newspapers remarked that on that morning dawned a new era in Grand Rapids, whose citizens for the first time could leave their homes by another conveyance than river steamer or stage coach. There was no formal celebration of the railroad opening. Beginning on July 13, there were regular arrivals and departures of daily trains east. On the 12th of July ground was broken, north of Bridge street west, by James Scribner and a company of workmen, for the projected Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad, and on the 18th of August new contractors, with about seventy-five hands, began the grading in earnest northward, George W. Howland, a printer, throwing the first shovelful of dirt. August 26 the Detroit and Milwaukee railroad bridge was finished. September 1 the connection with Grand Haven was made, the engine, with the track-laying, having come through from Mill Point (thirty-five miles) in forty days. Teams crossed the new lattice bridge at Bridge street September 4. The first telegraphic communication was with Detroit, over the line of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad Company, when the following correspondence was exchanged:

Grand Rapids, September 14, 1858.

To the Honorable, the Mayor of the City of Detroit:

The Valley City shakes hands with the city of Detroit, and, while nations rejoice at the successful laying of the Atlantic telegraph, we may be permitted to congratulate each other that



distant parts are joined together by that mysterious agent which makes all nations one and mankind a brotherhood. Peace and prosperity to the city of Detroit, and may her noble-hearted citizens ever enjoy the blessings of civil and religious liberty.

G. M. McCray,  
Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids.

Detroit, September 14, 1858.

To the Honorable, the Mayor of the City of Grand Rapids:

The city of Detroit heartily responds to the friendly sentiment of the Valley City, and rejoices with her that science and art are combining to diffuse the blessings of civil and religious liberty throughout the world, and are, by the railroads and telegraph, bringing us into closer union with our sister cities, identifying our interests and cementing our friendships.

John Patton,  
Mayor of the City of Detroit.

October 4, 1858, three wild black bears (cubs), weighing about fifty pounds each, were killed in the Fourth ward of the city by Samuel White, Gabriel Burgett, Mr. Clidesdell and a dog. Wild bears were becoming scarce, and these attracted much attention. There was a fine county fair that week. The Leonard street bridge was finished October 21, and the Pearl street bridge on the 25th of November.

1859. First among the events of the year was the Burns centennial anniversary festival, January 25, when the Rathbun House was filled to its utmost capacity with citizens of Scotch nativity and other admirers of Scotland's great bard. It was the first celebration of the sort ever held here. Large quantities of land plaster were sent out over the Detroit & Milwaukee railroad in February; the beginning of shipments of that article by rail. The spring of 1859 was notable as being the first within the memory of man when there were no Indian fishermen about the Rapids or the islands—not a wigwam nor tent nor camp-fire of "the noble red man" could be seen here. The Indian sturgeon trade at this place was ended. The Order of the Sons of Malta, a secret society, the object of which appears to have been sport for the members, flourished during that season. August 19 there was great consternation and excitement in the city, Marietta Fitch was missing. She had gone into the "south woods" beyond Grandville on the previous day, with a blackberrying party, became separated from her companions and remained lost in the forest

over night. When found she knew neither her friends nor home, but recovered in a few days from her bewilderment. Building of Daniel Ball's block, where now is the Old National Bank and the Pantlind hotel, was begun in September, and the brick work was finished in November. The first paving of Canal street, with cobble stone, was completed September 27, from Pearl to Hastings street. This was a year of much street work. New grades were made at Canal, Pearl, Ottawa, Market and Division streets, and several others. Wolves and wild-cats were not fully exterminated at this time, as appears by the fact that the Board of Supervisors allowed at their October session \$30 for the killing of three full-grown wolves, and \$10 for the killing of four full-grown wild-cats. These ferocious animals were killed in the northern part of the county. October 17 there was a bit of excitement over the gushing of salt water from a deep well at Coldbrook. A list of prominent business buildings and dwellings erected in the city during the season of 1859 footed up a value of about \$136,000.

1860. Social exercises opened with an impromptu celebration of the Jackson anniversary—8th of January—on the evening of the 7th, in the armory hall of the West Side Union School building. It was voted a "grand event" by the military men and firemen. January 23, fire broke out in the Taylor & Barns block, in which the county offices were situated and the county records kept. The buildings were destroyed, with nearly all the records, also the wood building across the alley (now called the Arcade) where the postoffice was kept. The private losses in money value were estimated at about \$90,000—that of the public records, books and documents could not be computed nor were ever made good. Several serious injuries were sustained by men fighting the fire, but none fatal. An abstract of titles in the county had just been completed by the Register of Deeds, L. S. Seranton. This, his private property, with ten or twelve out of sixty or more volumes of the records of deeds, constituted all that was saved from the fire. Those abstracts were afterwards purchased by the county, and in the winter of 1861 the Legislature passed an act making them *prima facie* evidence of title, as to real estate covered by their record. The members of the Bar Association had a meeting February 7, and agreed to take no advantage, in litigation, of the loss of records by the then recent

fire, but to aid each other as much as possible in the mutual use of such papers and documents as any of them might have. Thomas D. Gilbert, January 20, made a donation in trust, with certain conditions, of \$2,000, which was the foundation of what is to this day known as the Gilbert Trust Fund, belonging to our public schools. William L. Waring that spring plowed and fenced and sowed to wheat forty acres of ground within the then limits of the city, on the east side. The Taylor & Barns block, which was burned in January, was rebuilt by Stewart & McReynolds. The steamer Michigan burned to the water's edge, a total loss, on the evening of July 11, a short distance below Fulton street, in the west channel. There was much complaint of poor paper currency in circulation here, but efforts to introduce better and more reliable bank currency were not successful. The country was still laboring under the depression caused by the general financial revulsion of 1857. Yet there was steadily increasing business, and confidence that better things were coming.

1861. At the opening of this year economy was the order of the day, and business men, as well as public bodies, were proceeding cautiously. Times had been "growing tight," as the colloquial expression ran, and there was an indefinable fear or dread of coming events that were casting shadows before. Several states passed ordinances of secession, and here, as elsewhere, was a gradually swelling current of anxiety. Excitement of a military character grew rapidly after the first three months, and the recruiting of troops with headquarters in or near the city, not only added enthusiasm to the war feeling, but gave a new spur to business, which from that time grew greatly in volume and importance, and for many years added to the local and general prosperity.

1862. Enlisting men for the war proceeded briskly, the headquarters at the fair grounds presenting a busy and inspiring scene throughout the summer. The citizens not eligible for the army entered spiritedly into the work of aiding and encouraging the soldiery in behalf of the Union. A tree-planting association was organized in the Third ward and did good work in setting shade trees on the parks and contiguous sidewalks. Thomas D. Gilbert was prominent in this movement, and at the expense of the city one hundred trees were set on the public square, and a fence put around it and painted. As an illustra-

tion of the rapid advance in prices about that time, it is on record that the painter, between the making of his bid and the closing of the contract, about two weeks, asked and obtained \$7.50 for the rise on oil. Prices generally rose rapidly after the greenbacks came into circulation; business almost ran wild, and speculators grew light-headed over the sudden fluctuations, which almost every day gave new opportunities for profitable trade. The closing months of the year were marked by great activity in business circles, and at the same time there was much life and liberality in contributions to encourage the soldiers, and help carry on the war.

1863. Work on public improvements in the city proceeded briskly. The Third Ward Tree association obtained permission of the Common Council to fence and otherwise improve the triangular plats of public ground near the head of Monroe street and the foot of State street. City Surveyor John Almy died on the 29th of September. Ransom C. Luce erected a three-story brick block on Monroe street, nearly opposite the head of Market, which he named Fremont Block. There was a military camp on the hill, the headquarters of two cavalry regiments then organizing. In the latter part of October, a draft at the Provost Marshal's office in this city caused a brief ripple of excitement. The clergy of the city were very attentive to the soldiers at Camp Lee, and held services there on Sundays, regularly, during the fall. In December the Board of Supervisors authorized the issue of bonds for the purpose of paying a bounty of \$200 to encourage enlistments. The amount estimated was \$78,400.

1864. During the month of January the city swarmed with military men, large numbers of whom arrived and departed daily. On some occasions there were from 3,000 to 5,000 officers and soldiers at Camp Lee, and other places about the city. On the 22d of January a grand festival was given in Luce's Hall, for the benefit of the Soldiers' Aid Society, and several successful entertainments for the same purpose were given in the following month. The Kent County Soldiers' Monument Association was organized in February, with Thomas D. Gilbert as President. The annual report of the Secretary and Treasurer of the Aid Society showed a disbursement of \$1,721.70 the previous year. It was a winter of little severe cold and not much good sleighing. A revised enrollment list, published March 1,

plat, which had been a great hindrance to sales of property there, was paid off and discharged. This was a matter of great importance to the people east of the river, and north of Lyon street, giving them an opportunity which they had not before enjoyed, of obtaining clear titles to lots, on which they could erect permanent buildings with a feeling of security. About 200 soldiers were forwarded from this city the first week in March, mostly as recruits to various commands of the Army of the Cumberland. March 17, eight wood buildings, mostly occupied by small stores, and including the City Clerk's office, on the east side of Exchange Place Alley, were destroyed by fire. The city safe and papers were saved. The first movement toward placed the quota for this city under the President's call for 500,000 men, at 114. This quota had already been filled by the aid of local bounties. At this time the "Bronson Mortgage," originally made in 1835, covering a large portion of the Kent the establishment of a street railway in the city was made on the 28th of April, by the opening of books for stock subscriptions for a railway company. The veterans of the Old Third Infantry, who did not re-enlist after the expiration of the three years' service, and who went out from this vicinity, returned on the 18th of June, and were received with public demonstrations of welcome, and given a supper at the Rathbun House. These "boys," who came "marching home," numbered about thirty. The ladies of the city organized a Soldiers' Fair on the Fourth of July, at which about \$200 was raised for the benefit of poor families, whose heads were absent in the army. In pursuance of a proclamation by the President, the fourth day of August was observed as a day of National humiliation and prayer. Business houses generally were closed, and appropriate services were held in the churches. Military recruiting was carried on with great energy by the citizens. Frequent "War Meetings" were held, and the quotas for the army, of this city were filled without resort to drafts. The ladies of the Aid Society held a sanitary fair, at the time of the county fair, at which they realized \$1,846.66, as net proceeds. A large and successful county fair indicated that, in spite of military drafts, the people were wide awake and prospering in civil affairs.

1865. General Thomas W. Custer visited the city January 25, and was met at the depot, and given a cordial welcome by the mayor, common council, and a deputation of citizens. War

meetings were still the order of the day, to keep the volunteer ranks filled and avoid drafts. On the 4th of March an enthusiastic celebration was held by the citizens, in rejoicing over victories won by the Union forces in the army and navy, and the prospect of a speedy and honorable peace. April 10, 1865, was a day of jubilee and celebration over the news of the surrender of General Lee and his army, and the end of the war of the rebellion. There were large gatherings in the streets, with processions and music and speeches and cheers, and a brilliant illumination in the evening, with more patriotic speeches to a great crowd in front of the Rathbun House. On Saturday, April 15, there was another great public demonstration of grief and lamentation. The heads of the people were bowed in sorrow and mourning upon receipt of news of the assassination of President Lincoln, which was perpetrated on the previous evening. The city was draped in mourning, flags were put at half mast, business places were closed, and bells were tolled for three hours. On Sunday, April 16, the churches were draped, and solemn services appropriate to such an occasion were held. And the day of the funeral of the murdered President was marked by similar public services. No sooner was the war fairly ended, than the citizens of Grand Rapids began to move in the matter of hastening the construction of more railroads, from the south and southeast, into Grand Rapids. Public meetings were held, and prominent business men took an active interest in a projects that were organized, and this was kept up until success appeared. May 10th the street railway began operations, marking the advent of street cars. A few trials were made this year of concrete pavement for sidewalks—the first of the kind. An unusually fine and enthusiastic celebration of the Fourth of July took place this year, citizens and returned soldiers joining in the jubilee; a bounteous dinner was served by the ladies to the soldiers on the Pearl street bridge, a table being set through its entire length. The structure was trimmed with evergreen boughs throughout. At the east end was an evergreen cross, on which was woven with green twigs, "In God is our Trust." On the middle arch was likewise woven, "Welcome, Soldiers—Michigan, my Michigan." At the west entrance was, "Soldiers, Welcome." More than a thousand people were feasted at the table. In this month the Ladies' Soldiers Aid Society disbanded, the

organization having been at work from January 1, 1863, to July 1, 1865, and disbursed upward of six thousand dollars in aid to needy soldiers and their families. Several old buildings burned, December 1, below the Eagle Hotel, corner of Market and Louis streets, including blacksmith and wagon shops.

1866. The chief topic of interest in the early part of the year was the question of how to get more railroads into the city, and gain the benefit of competition in freights and fares. Frequent meetings were held. Predictions of enthusiastic speakers that the manufactures of Grand Rapids would in five years reach an annual product of \$5,000,000 in value were regarded as wild, but they do not now seem fanciful. From this time forward manufactures of various kinds grew rapidly and prospered greatly. In the latter part of March occurred a trial for murder, and the crime, being strange and peculiar in its perpetration and the circumstances attending it, wrought an unusual degree of interest and excitement in the community. Hosea N. Durfee came in October, 1865, from Ohio to this city, having with him a woman named Harriet Belden, and a boy about eighteen months old. After a few days he engaged a livery team, and with the woman and child drove northward. The next day he returned alone with the team and left the place. The little boy was found in the bushes a day or two later, by Nicholas Childs, of Courtland township, alive, but nearly famished, and after that the body of the woman, who had been strangled with a rope and stabbed. The perpetrator of this deed was finally arrested in West Virginia, brought to Grand Rapids and arraigned, pleaded guilty, made a full confession, and was, on the 28th of March, sentenced to the State Prison at Jackson for life. The utter lack of any adequate motive for the deed, and the utter depravity of the prisoner, as revealed by his own story, rendered this a peculiar case in criminal history, creating intense horror by its revolting details. On the morning of the first of May fire broke out at the corner of Kent and Lyon streets, destroyed the wooden buildings on both sides of Lyon west to the alley, swept through north of Lyon to Canal street and thence north on the east side of the latter to the Dikeman block, leaving in its course only blackened ruins and cinders and ashes. The losses by this conflagration were estimated at nearly \$100,000. The facilities for fighting fire were

poor, as compared with those of the present day. May 31 a block of six two-story wood buildings, called "the six sisters," also several other wood buildings and dwellings, north of Fulton street and on the east side of Ottawa, were burned. The ground where that fire occurred is now covered by fine brick blocks where much trade is centered. August 1, a meeting of those interested in the salt well boring at Coldbrook, near the railway station, was held, at which report was made that at a depth of 900 feet there were no more signs of brine than at 300 feet, and that the subscribers were in debt to the committee for advances made. The treasurer was instructed to levy an assessment to reimburse the committee, and further—"to sell the hole, in lengths to suit, to any oil companies of the city who may be contemplating further operations." A new dam across the head of the rapids, from opposite Fourth street to the Guard Locks, was completed in September. Bears were plenty in the region near the city in October. Several foraging parties, numbering from three to six, of these animals were seen, and a number were killed. One of them passed through the city near the residence of Mrs. Cuming, on the hill above Crescent Park, creating quite an excitement among the men, boys and dogs, but the bear got away. There has been no good year for bears since. Two boys, named Carr and Alley, were drowned October 20, by the capsizing of a canoe in which they were passing over the old dam in the river. Among the buildings erected during the season were brick blocks containing five stores, on the east side of Canal street and north of Lyon; several stores on each side of Monroe street, between Market and Ottawa, also a three-story brick block of two stores on Canal street, a short distance south of Erie street, many of which are still standing. The First National Bank building of eighty-four feet front on Canal street, at the corner of Pearl, was sold for \$28,000, by Byron D. Ball to Martin L. Sweet.

1867. The first notable event was a flood, and an ice gorge in the river, on the 22d of February, raising the stream to full banks along the rapids, and doing considerable damage to property on the east side, between Bridge and Pearl street bridges. Low lands below the rapids were overflowed. The flood was of short duration. February 27, the ladies of St. Mark's church opened in Luce's hall an entertainment which they



called the World's Bazaar, for two days and two evenings. It was thronged by a large crowd of visitors, and they realized about \$800 toward purchasing a new organ for their church. On the evening of March 1, a largely attended and successful charity ball was given at the same hall. The citizens celebrated the Fourth of July at the expense of \$1,188.87, and called it cheap. The first bridge on the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad north of the river, over Indian creek, was finished on the 5th of September. The last week in September the Kent County Fair was held, with an exhibition exceeding that of any former fair of the society. November 13, the first freight train on the Grand Rapids and Indiana road from the north, came into the city from Rockford. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad company established a station at West Bridge street in December, and on the 14th the road was open to Cedar Springs.

1868. Among the leading attractions at the beginning of the year by skating. The first artificial skating park in town was made, by flowing an acre or two of land north of West Bridge street, in the vicinity of Broadway, where the young people with a band of music enjoyed many merry evenings in midwinter. The night of February 3 was characterized by the press as the coldest that had been known in this vicinity. Reports of temperature ranging from 20 degrees to 38 degrees below zero were printed. A large congregation crowded Luce's Hall February 22, in the evening, for an enthusiastic celebration of Washington Day. A smaller gathering had a similar anniversary meeting in Rood's Hall. At the breaking up of the ice in the river March 10, a jam in the vicinity of Pearl street filled the river banks on the lower part of the rapids, and stopped work in the mills for two or three days. The Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad bridge, just finished, stood the pressure without injury. The bridge completion was celebrated with an oyster supper at the Bridge Street House. March 17, a bell weighing 2,500 pounds was placed in the tower of St. Andrew's church on Monroe street, and dedicated with imposing ceremonies. The old Irving Hall building was taken down this summer, and a new four story block built in its place. A drouth that had lasted about fifty days was broken by a gentle rain at the end of July, but the river was very low until September. The east channel of the river, from Island No. 1 to Canal street, at Pearl street, was

filled up this summer, making a solid roadway to the east end of Pearl street bridge. The first passage of a locomotive and train of cars across the river by the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad, occurred on the 12th day of September. October 14, the Valley City Woolen Mills, situated between the canal and river, east side, were burned, and Allen P. Collar, one of the proprietors, lost his hair, and nearly the entire scalp and skin from his head and face. 'At a demonstration upon receipt of election news, November 3, John Bero lost an arm by the premature discharge of a cannon. December 14, the Grand Rapids and Muskegon Railway Company was organized; but the work which it contemplated was destined to be done by another company.

1869. The year was ushered in with wind and storm and drifting snow; nevertheless the new year calls were many and merry. Union Skating Park, north of West Bridge street, was a popular resort for diversion during January. February 3, the Grand Rapids and Lake Shore Railroad Company was organized. This effort toward reaching Muskegon was another of the enterprises doomed to go out in smoke, though it accomplished much of real benefit, the profits of which were mainly gathered by others than the projectors. The first train of cars from Kalamazoo came into the city March 1, by the Kalamazoo, Allegan and Grand Rapids Railroad, and the event was celebrated in the evening of the following day by a supper given to the workmen, at the Bronson House. The "pioneer settler" lot at the corner of Pearl and Monroe streets was bought, March 9, by the City National Bank, for \$13,000, including unexpired leases, and the bank building was erected that summer. April 21 about 500 visitors came from Kalamazoo—an excursion over the new railroad by way of Allegan. The Association of Michigan Surveyors and Engineers, organized in 1868, held a meeting in Grand Rapids May 5 and 6. Wright L. Coffinberry was President of this association. On May 30 occurred the first formal and general decoration of soldiers' graves in this city, under the auspices of the Grand Army of the Republic. There were impressive exercises at the Fulton street cemetery, and a large audience was gathered. Col. George Gray delivered the address, and companies bearing flowers visited all the other burial places in and near the city. The first week in July was enlivened by

races at the first fair of the Grand Rapids Horse Breeders' Association. July 19 was a gala day among the firemen, the occasion being a visit from the Kalamazoo Fire Department, and there was great enjoyment in feasting and in trials of fire engines, July 27 about fifty business men from Sheboygan and Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, visited the city and were given a reception, with dinner at the Rathbun House. The day being fair, the people gazed at the eclipse of the sun in the afternoon of August 7. The temperature during the progress of the eclipse fell from 80 degrees to 68 degrees, and rose again about 4 degrees after the point of greatest obscuration was passed, as marked by the thermometers in this city. The Grand Rapids, Newaygo, and Lake Shore Railroad Company was organized in September, which subsequently constructed the railroad from this city to Newaygo. December 21, the fourth annual reunion of the Twenty-first Michigan Infantry was held at the Rathbun House, 200 members being present.

1870. The year opened brightly. The previous year had been a prosperous one, and all were hopeful and cheerful. The first train from Jackson over the Grand River Valley Railroad came into the city on New Year's Day, and regular trains began running January 17. On January 6 was held the first annual reunion of the Second Michigan Cavalry, and General P. H. Sheridan, once its colonel, was present. Among the new business blocks and other large buildings erected in 1869, and just completed or nearly so, were included: Congregational and Methodist churches, costing about \$170,000; six brick blocks on Monroe street, between Division and Ottawa, \$117,500; seven on Canal street, north of Lyon, \$80,000; two near the foot of Lyon, one near the foot of Kent, and several on South Division, Ottawa and Bridge streets. It was estimated that more than \$425,000 was invested in brick buildings that were completed this winter. A return made in January estimated the sales by manufacturers of the city, for the previous year, at about \$1,500,000, which the newspapers characterized as "a pretty fair exhibit for our little thirty-five-year-old town." A flood in the river reached its maximum April 4, when all the low lands on both sides were submerged, and basements along Canal street were filled with water from one to four feet deep. The freshet subsided without material damage other than the extra work required to

protect property along the east side canal, and the temporary driving out of many occupants of buildings in the inundated districts. June 16 a large number of city and county officers and others came from Milwaukee, and were given a cordial reception, with a banquet at Sweet's Hotel. An excursion of about 250 citizens to Milwaukee, August 23, was an incident of general interest. The laying of the last rail on the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, south of the city, September 13, was an occasion for mutual congratulations. This gave a continuous line from Fort Wayne through Grand Rapids to Paris, in Mecosta county, and on the 10th of October regular trains began running south over that road. October 20 the Custer Brigade held its second annual reunion in the city. The first regular through train from Grand Rapids to Muskegon left this city November 21, the beginning of railroad traffic with the country down the Lake Michigan shore.

1871. There was a heavy fall of snow in the middle of January, about twenty inches in depth, blockading railroad lines, and interfering with street travel. January 30 a company was organized in this city to construct a railroad by way of Greenville to Saginaw, and another, the Grand Rapids and Saginaw, was organized February 11, for an air-line road to Saginaw. Neither of these projects has been carried through. January 31 a company was organized to construct a railroad down the east bank of the river from about six miles above to about two miles below the city. This also remains unaccomplished. March 30 the Grand Rapids, Holland and Chicago Railroad Company was organized. This has since become a part of the Pere Marquette. April 11 occurred a disastrous fire. It destroyed all the mills, shops, factories and stores between the river and Canal street, for some distance above and below Erie street. The losses aggregated upward of \$250,000. One of the early-built stone structures, Franklin Block, was destroyed, as well as a number of the oldest brick blocks in that part of the city—Union block, Peirce's gothic store and hall, and Collins block. Most of the other buildings burned were of wood. Several hundred men in the shops and mills were thrown out of employment. May 28 fire destroyed \$25,000 worth of property on the east side of Canal street, from Crescent avenue northward. In the early part of June, Jesse L. Williams, who, in 1869, had been appointed by United States

Judge Withey receiver for the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad, made settlement and resigned his trust, reporting the road completed from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to Paris in Mecosta county. In the middle week of September a union fair was held here of the Northern Michigan Agricultural and Mechanical Society, the State Pomological Society and the Kent County Agricultural Society, which excelled all previous expositions of the kind at Grand Rapids. October 8 was the day of the great fire which destroyed the business portion of Chicago, and also of that which burned out the city of Holland in this state. These calamities drew heavily upon the sympathies of the people of Grand Rapids, and for weeks drew also upon their charitable impulses. Public meetings were held, a relief committee was organized, and the citizens contributed liberally of their means to help the sufferers. Other great fires in this month drew out sympathy and aid. Fortunately, Grand Rapids escaped the wide-spread devastation by fire, and the generosity of her citizens to the sufferers elsewhere was only limited by their ability to give relief. Such funds as could be spared were bestowed without stint, and shelter was given temporarily to many who had been driven from houses and homes. Many thousands of dollars were disbursed in relief work.

1872. The opening of the railroad to Holland, by an excursion thereto and back, January 6, was a pleasurable incident, and marked another long stride in the forward movement of this city. February 20, the Sweet's Hotel block was partly burned, by which disaster the First National Bank and the Western Union telegraph office, and a number of other business establishments, were forced temporarily, to find new quarters. May 3, fire between Kent and Ottawa streets, south of Bridge, destroyed a dozen buildings, including the old stone church, and turned upward of 100 people out of doors. May 8, Squier's Opera House block burned, and property valued at about \$60,000 was turned to smoke and ashes and cinders. There was a railroad excursion to Sparta, May 9, over the Newaygo road, just completed to that place. The railroad to Newaygo was opened September 11. October 30, fire destroyed stores and goods to the value, as estimated, of upward of \$200,000 on Pearl and Canal streets, each way from the Lovett block, leaving that structure standing alone on the corner. November 26, the old Congregational church building which stood at the west corner of Monroe and Division streets,

was burned. It had previously been converted into stores. December 30 through trains began running to Traverse City, which was a good ending for the year.

1873. The new year was ushered in by a fire that burned the Kent Woolen Mills. In the spring of this year was accomplished the straightening and opening of the foot of Monroe street (which the citizens had been laboring for during three or four years), at a cost of something near \$50,000. In April, the tearing down of the old buildings began, the first to be razed being the Commercial Block. This block had been the center of trade in that street for thirty years. Then followed the tearing down of the wood buildings—the hardware store next south, and the “checkered store” next north, and then, on May 20, the tumbling down of what was called the Tanner-Taylor Block, at the corner of Pearl, and standing broadside to the foot of Canal street. On July 13 (Sunday) occurred the most disastrous conflagration that ever visited the city—not perhaps in the amount of losses, but in the extent of territory burned over, and the number of families burned out. It was north of Bridge street, beginning at the Bridge Street House barn, and extending north to Trowbridge and east to Ionia street. This fire started about the middle of the afternoon, and destroyed near one hundred buildings, turning out some one hundred and thirty families (about 600 persons) from their homes. The day was very sultry, and the flames raged so fiercely that little property from the houses was saved. The citizens rallied in daily meetings to devise methods of relief for the needy sufferers, who numbered nearly four hundred persons. Many were given shelter, and many thousand dollars were quickly raised and expended in this work. The street railway through Division street to the fair ground, was commenced August 7, and completed on the first day of September. The delivery of mail by carriers was commenced in the city September 1. Under a call through the state authorities, September 6, the Grand Rapids Guard (military company) was sent to Muskegon, to guard the court house and jail there, against apprehended excesses of a mob, who were threatening to lynch a prisoner. The company returned without meeting any serious outbreak. In the week of September 15-20, the State Fair was held at this city, the first exposition here of the State Agricultural Society, with large crowds in attendance. The total receipts were upward of

\$30,000. November 12, the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad was opened to Petoskey on Little Traverse Bay. There was an excursion from this city to Petoskey in honor of the event. On the night of December 3 occurred a heavy wind storm, which damaged many roofs and spires in the city, and wrecked the frames of some partially built houses on the outskirts. The total losses by fire in 1873 exceeded \$420,000, on which there was only about \$175,000 insurance.

1874. After the well remembered panic of the previous fall, though its effects in business circles here were not seriously disastrous, the opening months of 1874 were marked by a quietness at the time unusual in this rapidly growing city. There was an apparent halt in business and financial circles, but with ready determination all were preparing for renewed activity. Toward the end of winter began what was called the Women's Temperance Crusade, in which public meetings were daily affairs, and prayer meetings in that behalf were not infrequent. Such meetings were held in most of the Protestant churches. A series of mass meetings at the Baptist church were held, beginning March 18. In the same week the Women's Prohibition Society held daily prayer meetings, and Union Temperance services were held in the Park Congregational church. This effort kept up a feeling of excitement on the prohibition question for two or three months. But, like many other spasmodic revivals, it subsided, leaving the public mind in doubt as to whether its good effects were equal to what should have been expected from so much fervid enthusiasm. Sweet's Hotel Block was lifted about four feet, the work beginning June 10, and taking about four days, and most of the brick blocks on both sides of Canal street were similarly raised during the summer. July 29 the Kent and Ottawa Council of the Patrons of Husbandry met in this city, and on August 18 held a grand picnic at the fair ground.

1875. January 20, the Public Library rooms in the Ledyard Block were formally opened and dedicated, also the rooms, in the same block of the Young Men's Christian Association, and the Ladies' Literary Club. February 8 a "cold cycle" was experienced, thermometers on the lower levels of the city ranging from 30° to 35° below zero. April 14 the Michigan Soldiers and Sailors' Association held their sixth reunion in this city, at which were present representatives of nearly every regiment that went

to the war from this state. The governor and several members of his staff were present, the local military company paraded, the bands played patriotic music, and there was a grand banquet in the evening in the spacious warerooms of the Berkey & Gay Company, on Canal street. Several regimental reunions were held at the same time, at other halls in the city. Work began in April on the Tower Clock Block, at the foot of Monroe street. July 29 the street railway to Reed's Lake was completed. The most destructive of the fires of this year occurred June 19, on West Bridge street, at which buildings on both sides and for some distance north and south of that thoroughfare, chiefly business blocks and stores, were burned. The fire extended from the bridge west to Turner street. Most prominent among the buildings destroyed was Turner (or Lincoln) Hall, a brick block; the rest were mostly wood buildings. A large number of families were burned out, and sixty-two buildings were destroyed, with but little insurance. This, at that time, was the main business center of the west side.

1876. The year came in with a moderate temperature and rising wind, which in the evening of the New Year increased to a gale, and played numerous pranks with loose property about town. Fences were flattened out and a number of unfinished buildings were blown over. A count made in the early part of January showed 240 saloons in the county, of which 185 were in the city. Accounts of buildings erected the previous year footed up 442, of which 258 were dwellings, and 48 were brick stores. Odd Fellows' Hall, in the Tower Clock Block, was dedicated January 17. The very moderate temperance this winter was a subject of remark, the lowest reported being 2° above zero, on the second of February. In March new iron was laid down for the street railway tracks. April 24, banks and stores began to use silver in making change, and the new currency was welcomed by the people, who had been deprived of the use of silver for about fifteen years. May 31, the Michigan Barrel Works, on upper Canal street, north of Leonard, were seriously damaged by fire, throwing 200 men and boys temporarily out of employment. The burned portion of the works was quickly rebuilt. The Centennial Celebration of Independence Day, July 4, was grand and enthusiastic. The citizens had spent a week in brief and patriotic preparation, regardless of labor and expense.



On Campau Place was erected an elaborate "Centennial Arch," rising fifty-six feet from base to the first plate, and above that to a total height of eighty-four feet. At the base its width was sixty-six feet and the columns were twelve feet in thickness. This again was divided into three arches, the center one thirty-six feet high and thirty feet wide at the bottom, and the side arches eighteen feet high and seven feet wide. The entire structure was dressed in evergreens, cedar twigs wound in ropes, the inside having red, white and blue strips intertwined with evergreens; the whole beautifully and profusely decorated with flags, paintings, mottoes and flowers. On the face fronting Canal street was the State Seal of Michigan, painted on canvas, and below this, "Hallelujah for One Hundred Years." Various patriotic pictures, names and mottoes were arranged from arch to base. At the top, on the Monroe street face, was a statue representing Michigan as a female figure bearing a shield, with arm extended, pointing to the motto "God and My Right," and below this were numerous other patriotic devices and sayings. Fine structures were also erected to arch Canal and West Bridge streets. There was an immense crowd in the city that day, people from outside being estimated at more than twenty thousand. In the street procession, or march, appeared about thirty local organizations. They moved through the principal streets of the city to the park, where an oration was delivered by the Hon. Thomas B. Church. Bands of music, civil and military, assisted to enliven the day, and in the evening was a fine display of fireworks. July 28 there was a serious fire on the south side of Monroe street, below Market, in the Rathbun House and the Lyon and Botsford Blocks, by which Edward T. Parish lost his life. A careful weather observer published the statement that this was the hottest July since 1838, the mean temperature being 74°. August 28, a building on the northwest corner of Fourth and Stocking streets used for a grocery and dwelling, was burned. Charles Swain, foreman of the hook and ladder company, rushed into the burning building, seized a keg of powder and carried it out, thus preventing an explosion, though it was so hot as to scorch his hands. The first fair of the Michigan State Horse Breeders' Association was held in this city, beginning September 7 and lasting through the week. A union fair of the Kent

County Agricultural and Grand River Valley Horticultural Societies began October 3, and was held four days.

1877. An interesting incident of January, was the shipment, on the 11th, by the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad of a carload of supplies for needy homesteaders in the northern part of this peninsula. These were contributed by the benevolent people of this city, and consisted of provisions, cloths and clothing. Mrs. Emily Campau, widow of Toussaint Campau, made claim to a dower interest in the first Campau plat, on the ground that she was a minor at the time when that property was deeded fore. The claim was easily settled by a subscription on the part of the holders, of \$2,500, which she accepted and gave a deed of release. Of this sum the city subscribed \$55. The property consisted of some thirty acres, through which Monroe street runs, in the business center of the town. January 23, the Masonic Grand Lodge of Michigan, and the Grand Lodge of the Knights of Pythias of Michigan, held sessions in Grand Rapids. July 6 a terrific thunder storm, with heavy rain and high wind, passed over the town. It lasted nearly an hour, during which a number of buildings were struck by lightning in and about the city, and considerable damage was done by the wind and rain. The filling and grading of the roadbed of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad across Saddlebag Swamp, three miles east of the city, was completed about this time. The filling, done with timbers, sand and gravel, was sixty feet deep, and about half a mile long. This is the point where, when the road was constructed in 1858, the track, and part of a construction train, fell in and disappeared in an underground lake. Beginning July 26, the second regiment of Michigan State Troops held its annual encampment for drill and instruction at Reeds Lake. Members of the Vermont Society celebrated the centennial anniversary of the Battle of Bennington, August 16, at Sweet's Hotel. The oration was delivered by the Hon. William A. Howard, after which came a banquet, or New England dinner. The Michigan Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church held its annual session, beginning September 5 in Grand Rapids. The second union fair of the Kent County Agricultural and Grand River Valley Horticultural Societies, held during four days of the closing week of September, on the fair grounds adjoining the city, was a very fine exposition. October 1, several Holland families in this town celebrated, at the resi-

dence of Jacob Quintus, the thirtieth anniversary of their landing in America, with the Van Raalte colony. October 4 a state convention of Universalists, and October 11 a state convention of Baptists, was held in Grand Rapids.

1878. The fifth annual convention of County Superintendents of the Poor of the state was held in this city, beginning January 8, 1878, and holding three days. Its discussions were in relation to pauperism, tramps, charities and kindred topics. Mrs. S. L. Withey, of this place, read a very interesting paper on Woman's Work in Charity. January 17, a session of the Grand Lodge of the Sons of Industry was held here. January 29, an attempt was made to burn the jail. Twenty-nine prisoners were confined there, one of whom, it was supposed, set the building on fire. The annual communication of the Grand Lodge I. O. O. F. of Michigan, convened in Luce's Hall February 19, and lasted three days. The week ending Sunday, April 28, was marked by an unusual amount of rainfall, reported by Prof. Streng at 4.02 inches. For several years previous the average for the entire month of April had been only 2.68 inches. The phonograph, or "Edison's talking machine," as it was called, was shown here, its first appearance, in the beginning of July. July 16 and 17 were set down as the hottest days on record up to that time, some thermometers marking as high as from 97° to 104° during the midheat. Several sunstrokes were reported, but none fatal. On Sunday, July 28, there was an immense temperance mass meeting in Fulton street park. At the end of August and early in September, the citizens, through a relief committee, of which Thomas D. Gilbert was chairman, were active in raising money for the sufferers from yellow fever at the south: \$3,550 were thus raised in the city and forwarded. "The oldest inhabitant" reported the water in the channel of Grand River the lowest he had ever seen. Flour was shipped this year to England by the Crescent Mills from Grand Rapids. About three thousand barrels of apples were shipped from this point for the same market. The seventh annual reunion of the Old Third Infantry was held at Sweet's Hotel December 14. It was attended by a large throng of citizens and guests. About two hundred sat at the banquet table in the evening.

1879. The country was covered with a deep mantle of snow in January. On the 4th of that month it was chronicled that

snow had fallen daily for twenty-six days. The Knights of Honor held a grand lodge session in the Tower Clock Block February 11 and 12, at which ninety-five lodges in the state were represented by upward of 130 delegates and officers. The Vermont Society held a reunion at Sweet's Hotel February 18. The resumption of specie payment at the beginning of this year, the appearance in circulation of gold and silver and regular paper currency at par, tended to create a cheerful feeling in all quarters. Business revival, however, was steady and progressive rather than sudden and speculative. The General Association of the Congregational Churches of Michigan held its thirty-eighth annual meeting in this city, beginning May 21, and lasting four days. This was followed, May 25, by the fifth annual convention of the Western Michigan Diocese of the Protestant Episcopal Church, lasting four days. Decoration day exercises and ceremonies included a large meeting in Fulton Street Park, and an eloquent oration by the Rev. Washington Gardner. Telephone exchange service was begun about this time through the employment of messenger boys. It was estimated that Grand Rapids buyers purchased about 1,200,000 pounds of wool this season. A fine and successful exposition was the first fair of the Western Michigan Agricultural and Industrial Society, which opened September 22 on the fair ground. The second annual exhibition of women's work at the Y. M. C. A. rooms was an interesting event at the end of October. The month of October was remarkable for its extremes of temperature—almost midsummer heat in the early part and winter cold in the latter half. But in the middle of November there were thunder storms, and dandelions were in bloom. The most destructive fire of this year was in the wagon and sash, door and blind factories of Harrison, of Ward & Co., and others, below the bridge, on the 5th of June, which threw nearly 200 mechanics out of employment. Another fire was the burning, for the second time, of the Powers & Walker coffin factory, December 17, near the west end of Pearl street bridge. It was a year of general good health, and of steady and material prosperity. Much building was done in all parts of the city.

1880. A state sanitary convention was held in this city February 18, and discussed various topics relating to the general subject of health conservation. The old wood building on Coldbrook, below the settling basin, that had been the pioneer grist-

mill in that quarter of the city, was demolished February 28 by a gale of wind. In the middle of March the collapse of a "wheat deal," speculation in options and otherwise, bringing heavy losses upon several Grand Rapids parties, and almost financial ruin to some, created intense excitement for a few weeks. July 7 about 350 old residents, ladies and business men, made an excursion to Grand Haven on the steamer Barrett and returned by railroad. In the early morning of September 2 the force main of the water works, leading to the reservoir burst on the side of the sand hill, and the water in the reservoir, about 4,000,000 gallons, was discharged, coming down the hill like a cataract, doing much damage in its course across Ionia and Ottawa streets. A number of the sufferers were afterward reimbursed at the expense of the city. Friday night, October 15, the Steamer Alpena, on her passage from Grand Haven to Chicago, carrying about sixty passengers, was lost with all on board. Christopher Kusterer, Frederick Spaeth, and George Hottinger, of this city, perished in that disaster. A terrific wind storm prevailed all the next day, doing much damage to other shipping on the lakes, and occasioning great additional loss of life. November 23 the ladies of the city presented to the Grand Rapids Guard (military company) a silk banner four and a half by six feet in size, heavily trimmed with bullion fringe, gold cord and tassel and costing upward of \$200. The Hebrew ladies of the city held a unique and successful fair during the week beginning December 6, in Luce's Hall. The New England Society celebrated Forefathers' Day with a banquet at Sweet's Hotel. During this year, it was remarked by the press at its close, the manufacturers and trade of the city were enlarged and extended more than ever before in a single year. And its growth was substantial and great in all useful directions. The surrounding country was blest with bounteous harvests and encouraging returns for honest industries and wise economics.

1881. The second annual convention of the Michigan Undertakers Association met in Grand Rapids, January 12. At this session they changed their name to Funeral Directors Association. March 5, broken ice floating in the river carried out a part of the east end of Bridge street bridge. About the end of April a State Telephone Exchange was organized, taking in Grand Rapids as one of the exchange centers. June 29 an experimental test of electric tower lights was made. Eight Brush

lanterns of 2,000 candle power each were lighted at the top of a tower, near the corner of Pearl and Ottawa streets, two hundred and two feet above the level of Canal street, and were kept burning during the evening. The experiment was repeated several times during the following months, but resulted in a decision not to adopt the tower system. July 2 the news of the assassination of President Garfield occasioned intense excitement, which continued, with only occasional temporary abatement, until his death, September 19. There was a scene of general mourning on the receipt of the news of this latter event, September 20; fire and church bells were tolled, the public and many private buildings were draped in black; flags drooped at half-mast; the hum of business subsided, and the people gathered in knots, to commune in relation to the common affliction. On that evening an immense meeting was held at Saenger Hall, for the public expression of general sorrow over the Nation's bereavement. Again, on the 27th, a vast congregation held funeral services on the public square, at which an oration was delivered by Hon. Charles W. Watkins, at the instance of the Grand Army of the Republic. The Western Associated Press held a meeting in this town, August 17, at which delegates were present representing about thirty daily papers, of eight or ten Western States. Its business was mainly with relation to the gathering and furnishing of telegraphic news. The Peninsular Saengerbund held a grand musical "fest" in Saenger Hall beginning August 23, lasting three days, and closing with a picnic and ball. It drew crowded audiences and was an occasion of great musical enthusiasm. On Sunday, August 28, J. W. Boynton, with a large force of men, extended the West Side Street Railway from the foot of Pearl up Monroe to Waterloo street, making a second track in Monroe street. William Brooks and Michael McNamara were killed, and two other men were badly injured, by the explosion of a blast in Noble & Company's plaster quarry, November 21. Forest fires, beginning the first week in September, in the east part of the State, and raging over a vast extent of country in the Saginaw valley and toward Lake Huron, caused terrible suffering and much destruction of life and property. In this city a relief movement was started, and carried on by associative action during the fall. Business men, capitalists and citizens generally, according to their respective means, contributed liberally, and many thousands of dollars and

large quantities of supplies of provisions, clothing, farm implements and other articles, were sent to the sufferers. The opening of the Peninsular Club December 20, and the Forefathers' Day reunion of December 22, together with the Christmas festivities, gave a fitting close to the social events of the year.

1882. Prominent among social events were a reception given at his new home by the Rev. George D. Gillespie, January 5, and a masquerade by the Pakotin Club in the evening of the following day. In the beginning of April, the Fuller Electric Light was introduced, at the Michigan Iron Works. In a pedestrian contest, which ended March 25, in Saenger Hall, Charles A. Harriman walked 352 miles in 100 hours. At another, which ended April 22, G. E. Pierson walked 100 miles in 27½ hours. The walking amusement continued until May 22, when Saenger Hall was burned. The first annual festival of the Central Michigan Turn Bezirk, was held at Turner Hall in this city, beginning July 23, and continuing three days. There was much rain this season; the rain-fall from April 1 to August 18, measuring 16.33 inches. The Redmond Grand Opera House was opened September 18. The Fuller electric light was turned on in a forty-light circuit, October 1. The annual fair of the Western Michigan Agricultural and Industrial Society held here in the last week of September was an exceptionally fine and successful exposition. October 5, a carload of specimens of the products of the Northern Pacific Railroad region was on exhibition at the Union Depot in this city, objects of general interest and admiration.

1883. A Grand Army Camp-fire Reunion January 20; deep snows, cold weather, blockaded trains, the appointment of Joseph Henry Richter to be Bishop of Grand Rapids, January 25; and the Burns banquet on the evening of the same day, enlivened the first month of 1883; to which might be added a grand charity ball at the Morton House for the benefit of St. Mark's Home, January 22. In February the citizens raised and sent, through Fred Loettgert, \$1,420 for the relief of sufferers by floods in Germany. The consecration of the Rev. Joseph Richter, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, at St. Andrew's Cathedral, April 22, brought together the largest assembly of the kind ever seen in this city, from all parts of the State. On Decoration Day there was a large procession with exercises and an oration in the park, and the usual strewing of flowers over the

soldiers' graves. The members of Champlin Post G. A. R., formally dedicated a lot which had been given them by the city in Greenwood cemetery. July 2 the Custer Guards dedicated their armory, when the ladies of the West Side presented them with a banner that cost \$300. June 18, occurred a thunder storm in which the rain-fall was 2.4 inches; and the precipitation for the month to that date was 6.46 inches—more than had been known in the whole month of June for many years. The June rains so raised the streams as to do much damage to highways, bridges, railroad culverts and crops. The river in the beginning of July, was nearly to the top of the banks through the city, and overflowed at the low lands below. The rain-fall of June and July was nearly 12 inches, and the result was a great freshet. Logs in the river above the rapids were banked against the upper railroad bridge, a heavy iron structure, and overturned three spans in the center, about one-half of the bridge, into the water below the piers. The logs thus released, estimated at about 100,000,000 feet in round numbers, went tumbling over the rapids, and carried off the other two railroad bridges near the lower part of the city. This was on July 26. The city bridges were left standing; Leonard street bridge unhurt, the others somewhat injured. Much damage was done to the mills, factories and other buildings along the canals and river banks. The entire jam of logs went through the city in about an hour and a half. Basements along Canal street were flooded, much of the lower part of the city was submerged, and generally the river intervals from Ionia to Grand Haven were overflowed. The repairing and rebuilding of bridges was accomplished as fast as men and money could do it; the upper railroad bridge was in place again August 10, and in a few weeks business proceeded as before. The direct money damages were immense, but never closely estimated. W. L. Coffinberry, from observations personally made by him, and data which he had preserved, expressed the opinion that the flood of 1852 was about 14 inches higher than this one of 1883. The colored people to the number of 500 or 600, celebrated Emancipation Day August 1, with public exercises at the fair grounds. A party of municipal excursionists from Detroit visited the city August 6, and were cordially welcomed, treated and toasted. October 6, the German citizens celebrated the bicentennial of the first German colony in America, that of the thirteen Quaker families who



founded Germantown, now a part of Philadelphia. There was a fine display of trades in the street parade, where samples of ancient and modern domestic productions and manufacturers were curiously mixed, and displayed together. The procession was nearly two miles long. There were exercises at Arbeiter Hall, including music and an oration, and the festivities closed with a grand ball and an illumination in the evening. The festivities of the year were rounded out by the reunions of the Old Third Infantry and the New Englanders, in December.

1884. Among interesting society events was the annual reunion of Old Residents, January 22, at the Morton, and the Burns Festival, January 25, at the Bridge Street House. Between the two, January 23, there was a convention of the Funeral Directors of the State, at which proceedings were enlivened by speeches and essays on embalming and other funeral topics. The Third Michigan Cavalry held a reunion, February 22, in Grand Rapids, and on the 25th a brilliant society event was the opening by the Peninsular Club of its new Club House. At this date the citizens had raised by contribution, and sent to Cincinnati, Columbia, and Portsmouth, Ohio, and Newport, Kentucky, about \$4,250, for the relief of sufferers by the then recent Ohio River floods. March 12 the Bissell Carpet Sweeper factory and four other buildings, in which nine different branches of manufacture were carried on, situated between the river and the lower end of the east side canal, were burned. The formal observance of Decoration Day included an address by the Reverend Henry Powers, and a general suspension of business. June 19 there was a gathering of nearly 4,000 people at the basket picnic of the Old Residents at Reeds Lake. There was a fine exhibit at the annual fair of the Western Michigan Agricultural and Industrial Society, during the closing week of September. A meeting of the Hotel Keepers' Association of Michigan, in the city, October 8, brightened the faces of the landlords. Of the fund for the Michigan exhibits at the New Orleans Exposition, \$600 was subscribed by five citizens of Grand Rapids—Amasa B. Watson, Thomas D. Gilbert, Julius Houseman, Delos A. Blodgett, and Harvey J. Hollister. On Thanksgiving Eve \$690 worth of provisions contributed by citizens, was distributed among the worthy poor of the town. A series of revival meetings, conducted by the "Evangelists" Whipple and McGranahan, began in the middle of November and con-

tinued through that month. At the World's Exposition in New Orleans, opened in December, Grand Rapids manufacturers had a separate building, which they called the Grand Rapids Furniture Pavilion. This was the only city having a separate building there. Upward of twenty firms participated in that exhibition.

1885. In the beginning of this year there were two sources of general interest and excitement. A freshet which started in December reached its culminating point about the fifteenth of January, when the water in the river was several inches higher than in the great summer flood of 1883. Broken ice from above lodged against the ice below the rapids which was yet unbroken, creating apprehensions of disastrous results. But the water cut a channel through the center, leaving high banks of ice on either shore. The freshet subsided with damage estimated at less than \$100,000 in the city. The other exciting event was a general reduction in wages by the employers in the city; less than ten per cent. in the average, but causing many workmen and some factories to suspend work for a time. About the middle of the month there were large numbers of unemployed people in the streets, and a meeting of the citizens was held to devise means for their relief. This resulted in the organization of an employment bureau, with committees to obtain situations for as many as possible. The County Superintendents and the City Director of the Poor had many more to care for than usual. The distress was greater from lack of employment among day laborers than among mechanics. About the same time the Knights of Labor had organized a boycott against the street railway, and carryalls were running in opposition to the street cars. The city authorities co-operated with the citizens in efforts for relief, and within two months matters were running smoothly again, with work for all at living wages. The annual convention of the Protestant Episcopal church for the Western Diocese of Michigan, was held here, beginning June 3, with a full representation of delegates. Excavations for the machinery of the cable street railway were begun the first week in June. The State Arbeiter Bund held its annual convention June 9, at Arbeiter Hall. The Old Residents had a pleasant picnic at the lake June 18. The American Pomological Society held its twentieth biennial meeting beginning September 9, and lasting three days, in this city. Delegates were present from twelve or fifteen States, and from Canada. Septem-

ber 16 and 17, were notable gala-days. The Society of the Army of the Cumberland held its reunion here, and on the same occasion were reunions of the Mexican War Veterans, the Sons of Veterans, the Old Third Infantry, the Fourteenth and the Twenty-first Infantry, and the First Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. An address of welcome was made by Governor Russell A. Alger, to which General Philip H. Sheridan responded, and other orations were delivered by General R. D. Mussey, Senator Thomas W. Palmer, and Hon. B. H. Cochran, of Toledo. On the same occasion the ceremony of unveiling the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the triangular Park by the head of Monroe street, took place, at which the presentation address was made by the Hon. Thomas D. Gilbert, the acceptance by Gen. Byron R. Pierce, and the oration by the Hon. Charles W. Watkins in behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic. The air was filled with military music, there was a fine procession in the streets, and the exercises closed with a military banquet at Luce's Hall. It was estimated that there were more than 30,000 visitors in the city. September 21, a car-load of products of the State of Oregon was on exhibition here, and in that week was held a successful fair of the Western Michigan Agricultural and Industrial Society. The Michigan conference of the Methodist Episcopal church began September 24, and was in session five days. November 18, the annual meeting of the State Law and Order League was held at the Eagle Hotel. At a meeting of sympathizers with Ireland, held the same evening at Redmond's Grand Opera House, \$1,100 was contributed to the Parnell fund. The State Grange held a crowded public meeting, December 10, at Armory Hall. During this year, it was estimated that over \$1,000,000 had been used in building operations here.

1886. An interesting event in business circles was the opening of the Bank Clearing House, January 8, making that a "red letter day" in the history of Grand Rapids banking. There was agitation of the labor question in the latter part of April, resulting in a partial adjustment between employers and employes, May 1, as to wages and hours of work, but in the following week numbers of men in several factories reconsidered and organized a strike. Their demands were for eight hours to constitute a day's work, without a reduction of wages. A compromise was effected, and the wheels of industry moved on as before. On Decoration Day

occurred the usual ceremonies in tribute to the memory of departed soldiers, with an oration by William J. Stuart. The regatta of the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association, at Reeds Lake, the first one held on those waters, drew thousands of people there July 12 and 13. The Michigan Grand Council of the Catholic Mutual Benefit Association held a session here, which lasted three days, beginning August 10. September 14 our city was visited by a delegation of 1,100 officers, business men, professional men, and ladies, from Saginaw, who were accorded a hearty official and civic reception. September 17, the corner-stone of the Wealthy Avenue Baptist church was laid. The annual agricultural and industrial fair week, beginning September 20, was one of great enjoyment, with large attendance and a fine exposition. September 21, at a convention of delegates of the trade, held here, a State Grocers' Association was formed. The Presbyterian Synod of Michigan held a session here, beginning October 13. October 27 Germania Hall was dedicated.

1887. Among leading early events was the organization of a company, January 15, to bore a deep well—3,000 feet, more or less, as circumstances might determine—for which the contract was let January 25, with the hope of striking gas. The Old Residents held their winter reunion January 18; from the 20th to the 26th a poultry show proved an attractive exposition; and in the same week a convention was held of the State Engineers' Society in the Superior Court room. A convention of the Michigan Business Men's Association met March 15, in Arcanum Hall, and for two days discussed nearly every department of trade and methods of trading, from banking and wholesaling to peanut peddling; also feasted and toasted and danced at Sweet's Hotel. During the next two days the State Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, at the Redmond Grand Opera House was the leading attraction. The Widdicomb building was finished, and largely occupied at the end of March. The association known as the Traveling Men of Michigan began a two-days' encampment May 13, in Arcanum Hall. Memorial day was stormy but the turnout parade, services at Fulton Street Park, and the usual tribute of decoration, were attended to by the unforgetful people. The Old Residents held their annual picnic at Reeds Lake June 17. Thomas B. Church delivered an address, and speeches were made by others. On the 23d of June a large number of Old

Residents gave a surprise party to Mrs. Harriet Burton, it being the 74th anniversary of her birth, and the 54th of her arrival in Grand Rapids. June 30, the Pioneer Society of Ada held a picnic at that village, and the ceremony of unveiling the monument to Rix Robinson took place. They were joined by a delegation of Old Residents of Grand Rapids. Thomas B. Church delivered the oration, and addresses were made by John R. Robinson, John T. Holmes, and others. July 19-20 the annual regatta of the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association at Reeds Lake drew crowds of people. The annual show at the fair grounds, week of September 19-24, was unprecedented in attendance, as shown by the gate receipts. November 8 occurred the death of Cornelius Coughlin, aged 101 years, a native of Ireland, who had lived in Grand Rapids fourteen years. He was a tailor, and could see to thread a needle without the aid of glasses when he was 100 years old. Much was done in the erection of buildings this year. Among the prominent brick or stone and brick structures built were: The Derby, Hartman Hall and Shepard block, north half of Houseman block, Edison Electric Light station, new works of the Gas Company, Kennedy block, Winegar Block, Fuller Block on South Division, Weston Block rebuilt, Ladies Literary Club House, the Livingston, Belknap wagon factory, Kendall Block at the head of Monroe street, and others; besides a fifth story to the Morton House.

1888. The Catholics of the city celebrated the first day of January as the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of Pope Leo XIII. They had an imposing street procession, and Pontifical Mass at St. Andrew's Cathedral. The Association of Michigan Millers held a convention at the Morton House, February 8, which was attended by delegates from nearly all parts of the State. The workingmen had a large gathering at the Wonderland Theater, February 23, and listened to an address by Samuel Gompers, of New York, President of the American Federation of Trades Unions. The murder of Henry M. Powers occurred March 1. The April election was warmly contested, and an unsuccessful effort was made by parties who charged that something was wrong, to have a recount of the vote given for Mayor. According to the returns I. M. Weston received nine majority. April 10 the Grand Rapids Guard gave a reception to Governor Luce. The putting in place of the steel wire

cable of the Valley City Street and Cable Railway Company, April 13, was an event of public interest: The grip cars ran over the Lyon street track April 16, and began regular trips a few days later. A meeting of millers and grain dealers at Sweet's Hotel, April 19, organized a Western Grain Association. The funeral of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Town, who were killed in a western railroad accident, was held in the Universalist Church, May 1. Beginning May 15, the Grand Commandery of Michigan held a session in Grand Rapids. On Memorial Day there was a street procession and gathering at the park, orations, and the usual decoration of soldiers' graves at the cemeteries. The Good Templar Lodges of Kent county held a quarterly session in this city, June 27. The local military companies attended the annual encampment of State Militia at Mackinac Island, in July. The Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association had a regatta at Reeds Lake, beginning July 24. The Michigan Holiness Association held a camp-meeting, beginning the first week in August, in a grove near the corner of Lyon street and Grand avenue. The Grand Army men of western and northern Michigan had a meeting in this city, September 9. The citizens presented three handsome flags to Custer Post. The Michigan Bankers' Association held its annual meeting in this city, September 13. The annual fair, in the third week of September drew a large attendance. The Seventh Day Adventists held their annual State camp-meeting, beginning September 25, on grounds near Sherman street, east of the city line. Major Amasa B. Watson died suddenly, September 18, in the cars at the Union Depot. There was a very large concourse at his funeral, Sunday, September 23. The town was full of people September 26, when the new City Hall was dedicated. September 30 Roy Cummings fell from the stand-pipe of the Hydraulic Company, and was killed. A delegation of about 400 citizens went to Indianapolis, October 3, to visit General Harrison. Hon. James G. Blaine visited the city, October 8, and addressed the people in Hartman Hall. The Democrats had a large mass meeting October 12, and speaking at Hartman Hall by Hon. Charles W. Jones, of Florida, and others. Political excitement ran high this month, with daily and nightly meetings by both parties, in the city and about the county. The election, November 6, passed quietly, and without notable incident, except that it was a surprise to nearly everybody in the change which the vote showed

from the Democratic to the Republican party, over which the latter held an enthusiastic celebration, with illuminations and a street parade, November 14. The National Polish Aid Society dedicated its hall on Jackson street, November 21. November 26, Frank Corwin was killed by the cars, a little south of the city. The Seventh Annual Conference of County Agents, and a Convention of the State Boards of Corrections and Charities, commencing December 4, were held in this city. December 19 the Old Third Michigan Infantry held a reunion at the Bridge Street House. Locally, in matters of fire and other disasters by the elements, the year 1888 was comparatively an uneventful one.

1889. There was a small burglary at the Postoffice, January 4, when some \$500 in stamps and a few registered letters were taken from the safe. January 29, a convention held here of furniture manufacturers of the United States formed a "National Furniture Manufacturers Association." The annual Grand Lodge meeting of the A. O. U. W. was held here February 5, with a banquet at Hartman Hall. February 9, there was an exhibition of California products, on cars at the Union Depot. February 18, occurred the annual meeting of the Michigan Grand Lodge of I. O. O. F. in Hartman Hall, the session lasting three days; also meeting of the Daughters of Rebekah. February 26, the Grand Lodge of Chosen Friends held a session at Red Men's hall on West Bridge street. March 8, Cornelius E. Plugge was arrested to be sent to Holland, Europe, to answer to a charge of forgery. On examination in that country he was discharged and returned. April 30 was observed as a national holiday—the centennial of National Government under the Constitution. Buildings were decorated, and public services held in several churches. May 14, convention of the order of Red Men—thirty-four lodges of the State were represented. May 20, Masonic parade, and laying of the corner-stone of the Masonic Home, at Reeds Lake. Fred J. Morrison, Deputy City Clerk, died June 2. June 22, Old Residents' picnic at the Lake; address relative to the pioneer settlement, by George H. White. July 4, corner-stone of county building laid; large procession through the streets. In the second week of July were horse races at the fair grounds, and the twenty-second annual convention of the Michigan Press Association was held in Hartman Hall. The twenty-first annual regatta of the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association, August 1 and 2, drew

large crowds to Reeds Lake. September 1, Labor Day, was celebrated, by a street procession and exercises in the Fulton Street Park; orator, Henry A. Robinson of Detroit; President of the Day, Charles A. Hauser. The annual Fair, and an exhibition ("Last Days of Pompeii") enlivened the closing days of September. October 18, visit of delegates to the International Conference of American States. They were shown the beauties of the city and the manufacturing establishments, under the auspices of the Board of Trade. Military reunions were held: Twenty-first Michigan Infantry, January 10 and October 8, at the Bridge Street House; First Michigan Cavalry, March 28, at same place; Seventeenth Michigan Cavalry, September 25, at Hartman Hall with banquet at the Eagle Hotel. Among the serious accidents of the year were: The killing by the street cars of Robert Gamble and Levi Vander Moere, August 16; Samuel Campbell, September 3, and Peter Morse, September 8. Prominent among the amusements of the season was base ball playing. On October 9th Emil Gosch was convicted of manslaughter for shooting Daniel Sinclair in Browne township. Sinclair was with a party under the leadership of his brother, a deputy Sheriff, who went in the night to the house of Gosch to arrest him. Gosch resisted arrest and Sinclair was killed. On October 18th the Pan-American party visited Grand Rapids and were entertained by the city. This party was made up of distinguished visitors from Mexico, Central America and South America, who were seeking opportunities for forming trade relations and commercial intercourse with cities of the United States.

1890. Julia Ward Howe lectured before the Ladies' Literary Club on January 10. George Kennan, the Siberian traveler and author, lectured in town on January 16. On January 29 Alexander McKenzie was convicted of murder and sent to prison for life. February 11 fire destroyed the factory of the Grand Rapids Furniture Company on Court street. February 12, Joseph Housemon bought the old fair grounds of thirty-five acres for \$70,000. On February 17 cable cars commenced running on the South Ionia street line. March 1 the State Schoolmasters' Club met at the high school rooms. April 7 cable cars began running on Bridge, Canal, Lyon, Union and Fulton streets. On July 27 there was a strike by the street car employees. On September 10 the Democratic State Convention met at Hartman Hall. October 14



McKinley spoke in Hartmán Hall. On October 17, there was a run on the Fifth National Bank. On October 21 the Grand Rapids Street Railway Company and the Valley City Cable Company consolidated.

1891. January 5, Henry M. Stanley lectured in Hartman Hall. January 6 a corporation was organized to erect the Michigan Trust building. February 1 the Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine was organized. February 6, Grandma Roberts died, age 100 years and 7 months. February 8 the People's Savings Bank began business. February 18 work was commenced to change the cable street system to electric lines. March 13 the village of East Grand Rapids was incorporated. April 12 Rev. Charles Fluhrer preached the last sermon in the old Universalist church on Pearl street. April 20 Congressman Ford died. May 10 the street car employes went on a strike, and on the 14th there was a great street parade of labor; over 3,000 men were in line. May 21 the Michigan Masonic Home was opened. June 16 Judge John T. Holmes died. August 26 the Worden Furniture factory burned. September 1st plans for a new high school building were adopted. October 7 great race between Nelson and Alleton; won by Alleton in the presence of 20,000 people. November 3 Belknap elected to congress and Haggerty elected judge of the police court. November 30 Sir Edwin Arnold visited Grand Rapids. On December 14 Rev. De Witt Talmage lectured in the city.

1892. On January 11 Max O'Rell lectured in the city. January 15 was the first lecture of a university extension course ever given in the city. It was delivered by Prof. I. N. Denmon. January 26 the Owashtanong Club was closed. February 16 the famous "Jockey" Brown Will contest began. April 3, Rev. D. T. Bradley preached his initial sermon in the Park Street Congregational Church. May 3, Children's Carnival in Hartman Hall. May 13, W. H. Eastman appointed Superintendent of Police. June 11, Powers' Opera House burned. January 28, county officers took possession of the court house. July 2 last case tried in the old police court station. August 27, A. E. Brooks & Co.'s candy factory burned. September 27, J. Sloat Fassett of New York spoke at a Republican rally. October 20, Senator Frey of Maine spoke at Hartman Hall. November 18, recount for member of congress commenced which was ended on December 9th. December 10,

there was a reception to Don M. Dickinson and wife at the residence of Dr. C. S. Hazeltine.

1893. January 3, William Aldrich Tateum won the speakership at Lansing. January 18, there was a citizens' meeting to rush river improvements. February 10, ex-governors' night at the Lincoln Club banquet. March 12, flood in the river. April 11, Charity Organization Society formed at Park Street Congregational church. July 1, half century anniversary of Bishop Gillespie's ordination to the priesthood. August 17, five prisoners broke from jail. September 4, Labor Day celebration at which William Alden Smith was the orator. September 12, death of M. S. Crosby. November 4, banquet to Edwin F. Uhl before his departure for Washington to become Assistant Secretary of State. November 6, was laid the corner stone of the St. Cecilia Building. December 16 was the Fox-Hindsdill wedding at St. Mark's church.

1894. January 17, Mrs. Miles McKendrick was murdered at her home near the south limits of the city. February 16, Jefferson Club banquet held at Sweet's Hotel. March 7, Thomas Carroll nominated postmaster. March 20, Charles McCord arrested in San Francisco for the murder of Mrs. McKendrick. May 5, Governor Rich appointed John Patton Jr., United States Senator. June 28, Democratic State Convention at Lockerby Hall Edwin F. Uhl nominated for Senator. July 31, State Republican convention at Lockerby Hall and John T. Rich nominated for Governor. August 20, the Arbeiter Society celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its organization. August 29, William Alden Smith nominated for Congress the first time. October 12, Governor McKinley of Ohio spoke at Lockerby Hall. October 27, The Herald bought The Eagle. November 13, State Sunday School Convention held at Lockerby Hall, which Lockerby Hall, January 4, the Woman's Auxiliary to the Soldiers' Home was dedicated.

1895. January 3, Hon. John Patton, Jr., defeated for United States Senator. January 22, State Convention of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police. January 29, Anti-toxine used for the first time in city, February 2, Lake Side club organized. February 12, Lincoln club banquet. March 30, First Shrine in the state of Order of White Shrine of Jerusalem organized in city. April 5, Republican College League convention. May 9 Grand Rapids Furni-

ture exhibition organized. June 10, Citizens Telephone Co. organized. June 18, Lakeside Club opening. August 19, Sweet's Hotel fire. August 22, George W. Powers killed. September 8, State Fair opened. October 28, Council bought 40 acres to add to John Ball Park. October 31, Earthquake felt in Grand Rapids. November 29, Maccabees mass meeting at Lockerby Hall. October 23, Council bought Island Market site.

1896. January 11, Eugene V. Debs, the American Railroad Union leader, visited the city. January 12, Albert Johnson was shot by Bert Holmes at 348 Ottawa street. February 10, Edwin F. Uhl nominated and confirmed as ambassador to Germany. February 17, the Houseman Block was burned and J. G. Beecher died from the effects of the fire. April 15, Bert Holmes found guilty of murder of Albert Johnson. May 13, the Michigan Bar Association met at the Ladies Literary Club house. June 5, National Conference of Charities and Corrections held in Grand Rapids. June 10, National Conference of Charities closed its sessions. June 10, Michigan State Dental Association met in Grand Rapids. June 28, Aeronaut Cole fell from his balloon at North Park and was killed. August 5, Republican State Convention met in Lockerby Hall; big political battle on. August 6, Pingree nominated for Governor. August 26, Charles R. Sligh nominated for Governor by the Democrats at Bay City. September 1, State Bankers Association met in Grand Rapids. September 8, National Mail Carriers Association met in St. Cecilia Bldg. September 23, Senator Thurston of Nebraska spoke at Lockerby Hall. October 10, Bourke Cockran spoke at Lockerby Hall and General Palmer and General Buckner spoke at Powers Opera House. October 15, William Jennings Bryan spoke in Grand Rapids. December 17, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Osterhout celebrated their golden wedding.

1897. January 1, Bunk Tradewell shot in his saloon by a policeman while resisting arrest. February 2, counterfeiters discovered at 58 Williams street. February 12, Lincoln Club banquet at which two Cubans were the guests. February 17, Democratic State Convention in town. February 22, the pavilion at Reeds Lake burned. April 8, Bert Holmes, who had been granted a new trial by the Supreme Court, taken before Judge Padghour of Allegan pleaded guilty to manslaughter and fined \$1,000. May 15, N. B. Clark of Grand Rapids shot in Milwaukee. May 25,

*Combined women of  
Grand Rapids, Republican,  
and Populist*

Ballington Booth, commander-in-chief of the Volunteers of America, visits Grand Rapids. Allen Durfee died. July 12, the Pan-Americans visited Grand Rapids. August 3, Claire Hall and Eva Herrick drowned at Ottawa Beach. September 6, State Fair opened at Comstock Park. September 14, Samuel M. Lemon appointed Collector of Internal Revenue. October 5, Prof. C. G. Swensburg died. October 26, Street Carnival commences. November 23, National Conference of Woman's Suffrage Association held at St. Cecilia Building.

1898. On January 16 it was announced that D. A. Blodgett had retired from active business. On the 17th, the Masonic Grand Council and Chapter of the State held their annual sessions in the city. March 11, a large party from the city started for the Klondike mining region. April 4, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. A. Berkey celebrated their golden wedding. June 23, the Furniture Manufacturers held an annual banquet. July 9, the total Grand Rapids subscriptions to the war loan reached \$1,500,000. October 7, the annual meeting of the American Board of Missions was held in Grand Rapids. October 10, General Shafter was in town. October 24, the Street Carnival of Fairs opened. November 18, was the annual banquet of the Board of Trade. September 5, soldiers from the Spanish war came home. December 2, Wm. Howlett died. December 9, Ebenezer Anderson died. March 5, Wm. Holden died. November 25, Col. A. F. McReynolds died. July 4, Dr. Wm. H. DeCamp died.

1899. January 3, Edgar J. Adams nominated for speaker at Lansing. January 16, police raided a gambling room on Pearl street and caught some well known citizens. February 17, Col. William Jennings Bryan spoke at the Auditorium. April 29, National Woman's Suffrage Association again met in Grand Rapids. May 15, Grand Rapids Veneer Works burned. May 25, International Conference of Christians opened at the Auditorium and presided over by Rear Admiral Philip. September 25, fiftieth annual State Fair commences at Comstock Park. October 20, Ira C. Hatch shot Ruby Sherman and then killed himself. October 27, the Mathews residence was robbed of \$2,000 worth of jewels. November 27, General I. C. Smith accidentally killed by shot from his own gun while hunting near the Cascade road. December 18, pro Boer demonstration at the Auditorium. December 19, resignation of General W. T. White demanded by Governor Pingree.

1900. January 3, General Will L. White disappeared. March 7, Henry M. Rose appointed Clerk of the United States Senate. March 13, George P. Wanty appointed and confirmed federal judge for the Western District of Michigan. April 10, Boer meeting at the Auditorium. May 31, famous Republican County Convention at which Stearns and Bliss delegates were chosen. June 11, Admiral Dewey and wife visited Grand Rapids and were given a reception at the city hall. June 27, State Republican Convention. June 28, Aaron T. Bliss nominated for Governor after an exciting contest. Daniel McCoy nominated for State Treasurer. August 15, a G. R. I. Railroad train wrecked at Pierson and several persons killed. October 6, Senator William Mason of Illinois, spoke at the Auditorium. October 10, William Jennings Bryan spoke at the Auditorium. October 16, Board of Trade Excursion on the river. November 14, Gen. Will L. White returns home. November 21, Board of Trade celebrates semi-centennial of the incorporation of the City of Grand Rapids. December 4, Governor Pingree pardons General White. December 26, State Teachers Association met at the Fountain Street Baptist church.

1901. February 24, Lant K. Salisbury arrested in Chicago. February 27, the Common Council asked for a grand jury to investigate water scandal. Martin A. Ryerson offers to build a public library. March 6 Judge Adsit nominated for judge of the Supreme court. March 10, severe storms that did much damage. March 25, St. Andrew's Cathedral struck by lightning and destroyed by fire. March 28, flood commenced in the river. April 23, H. O. Schermerhorn died and left a good legacy to the Children's Home. May 7, call issued for a grand jury to investigate the water scandal. May 13, grand jury commenced work. June 14, Lant K. Salisbury, Thomas F. McGarry, Stilson V. MacLeod, Gerrit H. Albers and Henry A. Taylor indicted by the grand jury. July 8, hot spell commenced. July 18, the Luce Block collapsed and was destroyed by fire. July 18, the Michigan Barrel Company's plant destroyed by fire. August 3, first car over the interurban between Holland and Grand Rapids. September 19, memorial services in the churches for the burial of President McKinley. October 1, William M. Butts sentenced to prison for five years in the Superior court. October 8, a carnival festival named the Himord, commenced. October 22, Salis-

bury trial commenced in the Superior court. October 28, George E. Nichols arrested in the Salisbury trial. November 13, Powers' Opera House burned. December 4, City Attorney Salisbury found guilty of bribery by jury in Superior court. December 26, State Teachers' Association met in the city.

1902. January 4, MacLeod's confession in the water deal cases made public. January 21, Hopson-Haftenkamp Company's plant destroyed by fire. February 4, Grand Board of Trade banquet. February 5, Taylor trial in the water deal conspiracy commenced. February 12, Chinese Minister Wu Ting-Fang spoke at the Lincoln Club banquet. February 26, Henry A. Taylor convicted in Superior court of conspiracy in the water deal. March 4, Lant K. Salisbury and Stilson V. MacLeod pleaded guilty in the United States court to the charge of conspiracy to defraud Old National Bank. March 5, Salisbury and MacLeod sentenced to two years each in prison by Judge Wanty. March 18, Arthur R. Rood nominated for Mayor. March 22, Ransom C. Luce died. March 28, Taylor sentenced to pay fine of \$2,000 in the Superior court for complicity in the water deal. April 5, Arthur R. Rood, Republican candidate for Mayor, died and W. Millard Palmer nominated in his stead. April 7, W. Millard Palmer elected Mayor. May 6, McGarry trial at Allegan commenced. June 3, General Will L. White gave testimony in the Supreme court concerning the conspiracy in the so-called military scandal cases. June 10, Thomas T. McGarry convicted of bribery at Allegan in one of the water deal cases. August 26, League of American Municipalities met in the Furniture Exposition Building. September 25, State Republicans to nominate candidates for Justice of the Supreme court met at the Auditorium and nominated Judge Carpenter of Detroit. November 11, trial of George E. Nichols at Grand Haven for attempted bribery in one of the water deal cases commenced. November 22, news received that William FitzGerald, a Grand Rapids boy, had been murdered in Guatemala City, Central America. November 26, Henry J. Felker, Ex-City Attorney, died. December 27, Dr. W. F. Penwarden and wife killed in a railroad wreck in Canada. December 31, George E. Nichols acquitted at Grand Haven.

1903. February 6, Board of Trade banquet. March 8, North Park bridge taken out by flood. March 20, fire at Clarendon Hotel at which Wm. G. Hawkins was killed. April 11, severe

storms of rain that did much damage. April 17, banquet of Grand Rapids University Alumni Association at the Morton House. April 23, Mrs. Jennie Flood arrested for murder of John London. April 27, Hoyt G. Post died. June 9, Aaron G. Turner died. June 17, Grand Haven Interurban completed. July 4, consecration of St. Andrew's Cathedral. July 11, body of Miss Clara C. Green, teacher in the public schools, discovered in the woods of Walker township; case of suicide. July 14, John Muste convicted of murder in the Superior court. September 3, first library commissioners elected. September 21, John De Later killed on Bridge street bridge. October 14, State Federation of Women's Clubs met in Grand Rapids. October 31, Henrietta Adams given a verdict in the Circuit court against Robert Stuart Baker for breach of promise of \$30,000. November 11, Mrs. Flood found guilty of murder in Circuit court. November 13, Lant K. Salisbury made complete confession in the water deal conspiracy. November 21, George R. Perry, Jacob Ellen, Charles T. Johnson, Reyner Stonehouse, Malachi Kinney, David E. Burns, Adrian Schriver, John Muir, John McLachlan, Peter De Pagter, John T. Donovan, Clark E. Slocum, James O. McCool, James Mol, Corey P. Bissell, Abram Ghysels, Daniel E. Lozier arrested for complicity in the water deal conspiracy. November 27, Isaac F. Lamoreaux, Ex-City Clerk, made confession in the water deal conspiracy. November 30, C. S. Burch and Eugene A. Conger deny complicity in the water deal. December 5, Corey P. Bissell, John T. Donovan, Clark E. Slocum, John McLachlan, Reyner Stonehouse, Abram Ghysels, pleaded guilty in the Superior court to the water deal conspiracy. December 8, warrants issued for J. Clark Sproat, Charles S. Burch, Eugene D. Conger, J. Russell Thompson, Isaac F. Lamoreaux, William F. McKnight, George E. Nichols and Gerrit H. Albers in the water deal conspiracy. December 26, East Paris wreck on the Pere Marquette. Many killed and injured.

1904. January 3, E. C. Philips died. January 18, Walter Wellman lectured at the Auditorium. January 20, Alderman Jacob P. Ellen convicted in Superior court of conspiracy in the water deal. January 24, severe snow storm visits Grand Rapids. January 30, George Stewart Johnson dies. February 12, Lincoln Club banquet, Baron von Sternburg, Senator Dolliver and John S. Wise among the speakers. March 25, great flood commences. March 31, Judge Haggerty dies suddenly on Ottawa street. April

5, Edwin F. Sweet elected Mayor. April 11, Benjamin S. Hanchett appointed general manager of the Street Railway system. April 20, State Senator David E. Burns acquitted in Superior court on charge of receiving bribe in the water deal conspiracy. May 4, Teamsters' strike commenced. May 18, Republican state convention met in Grand Rapids. May 23, Conger trial commenced in the Superior court. June 16, jury disagreed in the Conger case. August 3, Democratic State convention in this city. August 18, Cherry street car ran down State street hill and several injured. September 22, 40,000 people visited the West Michigan Fair at Comstock Park. October 4, the Ryerson Library opened, reception to Martin A. Ryerson and wife. October 4, the Albers and Mol cases reversed by the Supreme court. October 25 Senator Fairbanks spoke at the Auditorium. October 26, trial of Ex-Mayor Perry in the water deal conspiracy commenced. November 16, wreck on the Pere Marquette at Elmdale and several killed and injured. December 11, jury in the Perry case disagreed. December 22, Pardon Board met in Grand Rapids to consider McGarry case. December 24, Crawford Angell died.

1905. January 9, Charles Chandler, the Attorney, dies suddenly in the Probate court. January 23, jury disagrees in the Muste case. January 30, Ex-Alderman Ellen sentenced in the water deal conspiracy. February 14, railroad traffic stopped by big snow storms. March 2, Knickerbocker Society have banquet. April 3, big fire in the Gilbert Block; several rescued from the top stories by firemen on the ladders. April 4, second trial of Eugene D. Conger commenced in Circuit court. April 9, "Mother" Jones spoke on Socialism at the Auditorium. April 22, Ex-Aldermen Lozier and McLachlan sentenced in the water deal cases. April 29, five more sentences in the water deal cases. May 4, Conger found not guilty by jury. May 4, terrific hail storm in the city, doing thousands of dollars' worth of damage. May 19, Judge Wanty decides the railroad cases in favor of the state. June 5, Lant K. Salisbury sentenced in Superior court to pay fine of \$2,000 for complicity in the water deal. June 6, flood on the West Side. June 8, West Side saved by sand bags on the river bank. June 9, 5,000 workers idle because of flood. June 14, E. D. Conger retires from the management of the Herald. June 18, churches close on account of smallpox in the city. July 7, Mill Creek flooded. July 14, John Muste acquitted by jury on fourth trial in Superior court for murder.



## CHAPTER XXX.

### NAVIGATION.

#### **Grand River—Early Boating.**

When the pioneer settlers came into this valley, the easy way of communication was by Grand River, with Indian canoes, the bateaux of the French traders, and the little flat-bottomed skiffs which the people along the stream built for themselves. Giles B. Slocum in 1834 paddled a canoe down the river from Jackson to Grand Rapids. But within two years came the use of larger crafts, scows and pole boats, and these were soon succeeded by small steamboats. At this time began a demand for the improvement of river navigation, and a call for public aid for that purpose.

The State made an appropriation in 1838 for the improvement of certain navigable streams, \$30,000 of which was to be applied for "improving the harbor at Grand Rapids," for clearing the channel at the foot of Canal street, and for removing the logs from the stream above, as far as Lyons. This was expended mainly under the direction of Rix Robinson, Commissioner; John Almy and James Lyman having charge of the survey. A considerable part of it was used in removing a large accumulation of bowlders from the channel near the head of the islands, above where now is Pearl street bridge. The channel from Grand Haven to the foot of the rapids, had always been navigable during the open season for boats of not over thirty inches draft, and lighter boats were able to make passage above this place as far as Ionia or Lyons. In 1847 additional State aid came in an appropriation of 25,000 acres of land, "to construct a canal and locks around the rapids at Grand Rapids."

In 1835, when the men came to dig the first canal, a portion of their supplies was brought from Jackson down the river in flat-bottomed scows, and a considerable number of the later settlers brought their families and goods in the same way. The Grand River Navigation Company was organized in 1842 with the avowed object of improving the river from Jackson to Lyons, but

it never did much. The State Geologist expressed the opinion that the scheme of such improvement was wholly practicable at small expense. The distance was stated to be, by the meanders of the river, nearly 118 miles, and the descent 281 feet; a fraction over two feet four and a half inches to the mile. This project ended in talk, as did also another and later one for a permanent waterway across the State, with the aid of canal work. John W. Squier, in March, 1844, brought down a cargo of irons and a run of stone for his mill, from Jackson, in a scow. The weight of the cargo was four and a half tons. Five other boats came down the same season, with loads of goods and passengers. Commenting upon these facts, the village newspaper said: "No canal in the Union runs through a larger extent of fertile soil and varied resources immediately adjacent to its line than the one proposed to be constructed upon the Grand River." The interest in this project was kept up until it resulted in the organization of the Saginaw and Grand River Canal Company, whose stock subscription books were opened in this city, April 30, 1850. Stock was not taken rapidly, and the work never went beyond the subscription stage.

#### **The Canal at the Rapids.**

The most important early movement for improvement was by Lucius Lyon and N. O. Sargeant for the construction of the east side canal and locks around the rapids, begun in 1835. It was dug from the head of the rapids down nearly to Bridge street. Several years later the work was resumed, and completed to its southern terminus June 30, 1842. The contractor for this extension was D. F. Tower. The canal was at that time described as being nearly a mile long, eighty feet wide at the water line, and about five feet deep. At its foot a basin was constructed, 200 feet square, the south line of which was 70 feet north of Huron street, and the east line within eight feet of Canal street. At the upper end a breakwater, or wing-dam, was constructed, projecting up stream and curving slightly toward the center of the river, to turn the current from the waters above into the canal. This wing was an embankment composed chiefly of loose stones, taken from the river bed. The work created a valuable mill property for nearly its whole length, along the river bank. Nevertheless it is evident from its character and the formation of the basin, from which

lockage could be had to the channel below, that the proprietors were in earnest in their intent to make of it a permanent public improvement for purposes of navigation. To complete it for the latter use, however, required, State aid, and they were not disposed and probably not able to undertake it at their own expense.

In 1847 the Legislature made an appropriation of 25,000 acres of land to perfect the canal, to build a dam across the river at its head, and to construct locks at the foot of the basin, and thus provide for the passage of boats both ways, and complete the chain of navigation from Grand Haven to Lyons. The dam was built in the season of 1849, and at that time the Grand Rapids Enquirer spoke of it as having originated much litigation, adding: "This work was projected mainly for the increase of the water-power at this point; so far it has only exercised our hitherto undeveloped wind-power." The dam was constructed of logs, brush, stone and gravel. It was about five feet high, with a slope of about thirty degrees.

The contract for the canal was taken by James Davis, and the work was done under the supervision of Frederick Hall, Rix Robinson and Daniel Ball. His contract included the completion of the dam, the enlargement and improvement of the race and the construction of the lockage below. The canal and basin work was completed in that year. Excavation for the lock-pit began in August, 1849, and considerable progress was made from the east channel of the river direct toward the basin, but the work was suspended for the season in November. That digging displaced one of the three block and log buildings of Louis Campau's trading station. It was where now is Lock street; the upper end of the steamboating channel being by the foot of Lyon street at that point. The Enquirer of August 1, 1849, had the following editorial paragraph in reference to this work:

Any one may now see the "Dutch Buggies" in full operation, at the foot of Canal street. The dirt taken from the lock excavation, near the bank of the river, is used to raise a lot belonging to Mr. Davis, upon Canal street, and the files of Dutchmen engaged in transporting "the raw material," are well worth watching. These men are mostly hired "for land," and a few months labor will make each of them the proprietor in fee of a forty acre lot, which in their notion is a domain, equaling in size some of the petty Dukedoms or Principalities into which their native coun-

try is cut up. They are not only an industrious but very steady set of laborers. No rows mark their hours or days of rest, to which peculiarity their general temperance undoubtedly contributes. We notice further that buildings are going up upon that part of the basin which has been left dry by the central embankment, the builders thus securing ready made cellars.

In February, 1850, the Legislature granted an extension of time to complete the lock, and in the spring following some work was done; but the contractor exhausted his funds, and left it unfinished. In 1851, the Legislature provided for the appointment of a commissioner to superintend the completion of the work, the cost to the State not to go beyond the original appropriation. John Almy was appointed Commissioner, but the job never was completed, and the lock never was built. About two-thirds of the appropriation had been used; the remainder (some 7,000 acres of land) was subsequently expended for the clearing of a channel in mid-stream, from the dam to the foot of the rapids, for rafting purposes. Wilder D. Foster and John M. Fox were the contractors for this last work.

#### River and Harbor Appropriations.

According to the Governor's message in 1845, \$34,658 had been expended the previous year under the State law for the improvement of Grand and Maple Rivers. Liberal appropriations have been made by Congress in later years for the improvement of Grand River below the rapids, the following being the items:

1881.....	\$ 10,000
1882:.....	15,000
1884.....	25,000
1896.....	50,000
1899.....	75,000
1902.....	150,000
1905.....	100,000
	<hr/>
	\$325,000

The following is taken from recent reports of the United States engineers concerning the improvement of Grand River. The annual report for 1903 says:

“Before any work of improvement was done upon Grand River

the depth in the crossings over some of the bars did not exceed two feet.

Between 1881 and 1886 the sum of \$50,000 was expended in securing, by dredging, narrow channels through these bars, with a depth of about 4 feet. No further work was done until 1896, but even then, at the expiration of over ten years, traces of the dredged cuts were still apparent.

"The present project, upon which work was begun in May, 1897, was adopted by the river and harbor act of June, 1896, and is based upon a report upon examination and survey. The project contemplates dredging a channel a distance of 38 miles, from Grand Haven to Grand Rapids, with a depth of 10 feet and a width of 100 feet. The project also proposes the use of construction work wherever necessary to increase the effect of the dredging or to render it more permanent.

"The estimated cost was \$670,500, but the project may be said to have been modified by act of June 13, 1902, and the cost mentioned to not less than \$774,000. To June 13, 1903, the sum of \$157,550.94 had been expended upon the project in dredging 450,970 cubic yards of sand, clay, etc., in building 106,041 lineal feet of training walls, and in purchase and maintenance.

"The available depths at extreme low water over the most shallow crossings now vary from 2.8 to 5 feet, there being only 5 crossings with less than 5 feet, and from Bass River to Grand Haven no depth of less than 5 feet exists.

The project is naturally one of constant repair and maintenance. High water ordinarily occurs in the early spring and is from 12 to 18 feet above low water in the neighborhood of Grand Rapids. In the lower part of the river the difference between the high and low stages become less, and at the mouth is inconsiderable. The commerce involved is purely prospective and it is probable that but little benefit will be derived from the improvement until it is practically completed."

The following is from the report of 1905 concerning the operations during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905:

"Operations by day labor and the use of the Government plant have been in progress during the year. The U. S. suction dredge Ludlow, which was at work on the Lamont bar (16 miles below Grand Rapids) at the close of the last fiscal year, continued dredging narrow channels through all bars having less than 5 feet

of water on them (at extreme low water) between the third and sixteenth miles; and the U. S. dipper dredge Farquhar completed a single cut through the Noble, Salt Works, Howlett, Glenn Creek, Clamshell, Jenison, Snyder, and Haires bars before the close of the season. On October 22 a navigable channel 4.5 feet deep at low water had been completed between Grand Rapids and the mouth of Bass River, 23 miles below. From Bass River to Grand Haven there existed a natural channel of that depth. The available funds having been nearly exhausted, the plant was taken to Grand Haven and stored for the winter season. The work of repairing and fitting out the dredging plant was begun March 27. The Farquhar commenced operations on the County House bar April 27, and the Ludlow on the Eastmanville bar May 1. From June 7 to June 16 these dredges were unable to work on account of an extremely high stage of the river. As a result of heavy rainfalls the river began to rise on June 5, and on June 9 the crest of the flood passed Grand Rapids, registering on the gauge there 25.4. This is a rise of 19.6 feet above low water, and only 1 foot less than the record flood of 1904. The work of the dredges during May and June of this season has resulted in completing the channel for a distance of 4 miles (from mile  $18\frac{1}{2}$  to mile  $22\frac{1}{2}$ ). The material dredged during the fiscal year consisted of sand clay, cobblestones, and bowlders, with sand predominating, and amounted to 619,259 cubic yards, at a cost of 3.5 cents per cubic yard.

The construction of contraction works this year consisted in completing training walls, which, on account of a high stage of water, were not completed during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1904. Between the fifth and eighth miles below Grand Rapids, walls, aggregating 3,459 linear feet, were completed during this year. In addition to this work old walls were repaired, by filling in brush where it had shrunk away, rebinding the tops of walls, and cutting off the tops of the piles which had been lifted by the ice. This work was carried on between the fifth and twenty-third miles, and amounted to 43,889 linear feet of old wall repaired. On September 18 this work having been finished, the plant was taken to Grand Haven and stored. The repairing and fitting out of contraction works plant was begun early in May, 1905, but owing to a continued high stage of the river, no actual construc-

tion or repair work could be commenced before the close of the fiscal year.

The foregoing operations cost as follows:

Dredging .....	\$21,700.99
Contraction Works:	
Construction .....	243.28
Maintenance .....	1,983.27

#### **Condition of Work June 30, 1905.**

The total distance from Fulton street, Grand Rapids, Mich., to Washington street, Grand Haven (the inner end of Grand Haven Harbor), is about 39½ miles. In this distance there is a navigable channel (narrow in places) of 6 feet at extreme low water for an aggregate length of 27.3 miles. The total length of channel 5 feet to 6 feet at low water is 8.86 miles. The total length of channel having depths less than 5 feet at low water is 3.24 miles. The least depth found at any point is 3.1 feet.

Two boats of about 100 tons burden each are now being constructed by the Grand Rapids and Lake Michigan Transportation Company to do a freight and passenger business between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, Mich. It is expected that they will begin to run in September, 1905. These boats will draw, loaded, about 34 inches.

The contraction works have sustained only slight damage from the ice during the year.

#### **Work Proposed For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1905.**

The dredging operations which are now in progress will be continued throughout the year. Providing the stage of the river will permit, it is proposed to construct approximately 25,000 linear feet of training wall in continuation of the works already made. Only such repairs to contraction works will be made as are absolutely necessary to save the existing works and protect the banks.

#### **Estimate of Funds For Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1905.**

By act of Congress March 2, 1905, the project was modified to provide for a 6-foot instead of a 10-foot depth of channel, in accordance with the report of the Board of Engineers (dated No-

vember 11, 1903) and contained in House Document No. 216, Fifty-eight Congress second session, which says:

(First.) The Board, therefore, believes that it is advisable to modify the project for the improvement of Grand River, with a view to securing and maintaining a 6-foot channel 100 feet wide from Fulton street, Grand Rapids, to Grand Haven, Mich., at a cost of \$327,000, in addition to plant and funds now available.

(Second.) The cost of maintaining a 6-foot channel may be estimated at \$20,000.

(Third.) The above estimate is based upon the supposition that the entire amount be made available for work with the United States plant not later than one year hence.

On this recommendation an appropriation of \$100,000 was made March 3, 1905. There yet remains to be appropriated \$227,000 to complete the work, and it is thought that the whole amount should be provided. In addition to this, \$10,000 should be provided for the maintenance of those portions of the channel which have been entirely completed. Therefore, nothing less than \$237,000 should be provided for the completion of this work.

### **The Coming of Steamboats.**

The regular running of steamboats on Grand River began in 1837. For several years a single boat made three trips a week which was sufficient for the transportation business. The first one was a home production, and a considerable number have been built here; also the hulls of some larger vessels for the lake trade. Several points along the rapids, and below have at various times been occupied as ship-yards. About 1842, the boating interest received an impetus from the increased carrying of merchandise by the lakes, from Buffalo to Chicago, thence by Grand Haven to Grand Rapids, and in August of that year there was great rejoicing over the arrival of goods from New York city in fifteen days from the date of shipment, something at that time unprecedented. Not long after, two boats were required for the increasing business, giving a daily passage each way, and later three and even four found employment. Above the rapids also, for some years prior to the coming in of railroads, two or three small steamers did a lively business. The advent of the locomotive introduced competition in the transportation of passengers, and of goods seeking quick transit, which proved too strong



for the steamboating men, and after 1858 the river navigation quickly dropped to only one or two boats, confined chiefly to local traffic, and these running regularly below Grand Rapids only.

### **River Steamers.**

Brief mentions are here appended of most of the vessels which have plied upon Grand River from the beginning to the present time, in chronological order:

1835-36. A pole-boat was built by Lyman Gray for Louis Campau. It was named Young Napoleon. Among the early proprietors of pole-boats were Thomas D. and Francis B. Gilbert, then of Grand Haven, but who some twenty years later made Grand Rapids their home. Richard Godfroy had a pole-boat which was run by Willard Sibley below the rapids until the coming of steamboating. The Campaus also had pole-boats and bateaux.

1837. The Cinderella, a pole-boat, was launched in June at Grandville. The Governor Mason, first steamer, built here by James Short for Richard Godfroy and others, made her trial trip to Grandville, July 4. This boat was fitted out with the engine of the Don Quixote, that was wrecked while bringing round the lakes the press for the first newspaper here. Governor Stevens T. Mason named the new steamboat and presented it with a stand of colors. Captain William Stoddard was its first commander; then Captain William Kanouse for a year or two, and afterward Willard Sibley. It made a trip up the river the season of 1837, to Lyons, with Alanson Cramton as bugler. The Mason was not a success pecuniarily, but ran to Grand Haven irregularly for some years. At the time of the great freshet in February, 1838, this steamer was forced by the floating ice inland toward where the Union Depot now is, and left aground by the receding water; but was returned to the river at the expense of much labor and cash, the work being done by Howard Jennings and Captain James Short, with several able-bodied assistants. The Mason was driven ashore and wrecked, in May 1840, near the entrance to Muskegon Harbor. In 1837 was put afloat also the river steamer Owash-tanong, built by Robinson, White, Williams & Co., at Grand Haven. It was commanded by Capt. Thomas W. White; was a flat-bottomed freight boat, not a very stanch craft, and was

sometimes called the "Poorhouse." It ran but a year or two, and not steadily, was finally dismantled and stripped, and went to decay at Grand Haven.

1838. Steamer Patronage, built at Grand Rapids. This boat was in service several years. Its engine was made at Grandville. A small steamer called the John Almy was built to run up the river, by Orson Peck. It made one or two trips and was stranded near the mouth of Flat River.

1842. Steamer Paragon, built by Howard Jennings. Willard Sibley, Master. Steamer Enterprise, built here, was launched in the spring.

1843-44. The Paragon ran to Grand Haven regularly during these two seasons. May 21, 1844, two flat-boats came down the river from Jackson to Grand Rapids laden with immigrants and merchandise.

1845. The Mishawaka, G. S. Matthews, Master, and the Paragon, Willard Sibley, Master, were on the Grand Haven route. The Empire, built by Jasper Parish for Harvey P. Yale and Warren P. Mills, was launched May 31, near the foot of Canal street. Henry R. Williams was agent for a line of lake propellers, touching at Grand Haven once a month and contributing to the trade of the river boats. In August, five yoke of oxen drew through the streets a boiler for Daniel Ball's steamboat, the Great Western. This was a boat in the up-river trade, but not much appears of record concerning it. The Spy, a flat-boat, loaded with merchandise and household goods and several passengers, including two ladies, came safely down the river from Jackson in April, and was moored in the Canal basin.

1846. Paragon, Captain George C. Darrow. Empire, Captain John W. Robbins; owned by Aaron Dikeman—afterward purchased by Daniel Ball. A propeller was launched by Daniel Ball, from a yard on the bank of the canal, March 16, intended for a lake boat. This was the Odd Fellow. She made several trips on the river and to Milwaukee, and finally went to Lake St. Clair.

1847. Paragon and Empire. In August the little steamer Humming Bird, built by Henry Steele at Lamont came upon the river, and was run by Captain Sibley. She was built, as it was commonly expressed, "on two canoes with a single paddle wheel in the middle." Her engine was one that had been used at the State Salt Works, below the rapids.

1848. *Empire* and *Algoma*. The *Algoma* was brought upon the river by Henry R. Williams, and ran for some years under command of Alfred X. Cary and Harvey K. Rose. It was a slow boat, much used for towing, as well as for passenger traffic.

1849. *Empire* and *Algoma*, down the river; *Humming Bird*, to Ionia, and *Lyons*, the latter having been purchased by Robert S. Parks. The *Champion*, that season made tri-weekly trips between Grand Haven and Milwaukee, connecting with the river boats. Steamers during the entire season were able to come up full laden to the docks in Grand Rapids, at the foot of Pearl and Canal streets. River navigation closed the first week in December, and the little *Humming Bird* moored, the newspapers said, "in the eddy of a saw log," above the rapids.

1850. *Algoma*, Captain A. Hosford Smith. *Empire*, Captain DeWitt Shoemaker. The *Humming Bird* was on the up-river route.

1851. Same boats as in the previous year.

1852. *Algoma* and *Empire* below; *Humming Bird* and *Porter* above. The *Porter* was hauled over the canal bank, near the dam from below, early in April. The *Empire* was commanded in the latter part of the season by Robert M. Collins. The *Porter* was built at Mishawaka in 1850 by Henry R. Williams, and was brought upon the river by Daniel Ball, Elisha M. Adams, John Clancy, and C. B. Allen; Byron D. Ball, Master.

1853. *Empire*, *Michigan*, *Humming Bird* and *Algoma* below; *Porter* above. Captain Robert S. Parks commanded the *Michigan*.

1854. Below—*Michigan*, Robert H. Smith, Master; *Empire*, *Algoma*, and *Humming Bird*. Above—the *Porter* and *Kansas*. Robert S. Parks in that season built at a yard near the foot of Lyon street, five boats for the Illinois Canal. September 2 the *Humming Bird* was wrecked by an explosion.

1855. Down the river—*Empire*, *Algoma*, *Michigan*, *Olive Branch*. The latter was a stern-wheel, upper cabin boat, flat bottomed, of light draft, and rather unwieldly. She was commanded by Robert M. Collins. Up the river—*Porter*, *Pontiac*, *Nawbeck* and *Kansas*. The water was low, making navigation somewhat difficult, and for a good portion of the season steamers from below landed at the lower island. According to an enumeration then made there were eight barges and tows upon the river here.

1856. Line to Grand Haven—*Michigan*, Augustus Paddock,

Master; Empire, Harvey K. Rose, Master; Kansas, Michael Shields, Master; Pontiac, Jesse Ganoe, Master; Olive Branch, De Witt Shoemaker, Master. To Ionia and Lyons—the Porter, Captain D. L. Coon; the Nawbeck, Captain Charles P. Parks; the Forest Queen, Captain Remington. The Forest Queen was built at Grand Rapids by Jacob Meddler, for William T. Powers and others, and launched on the first of April.

1857. Up the river—the Nawbeck and the Porter. The Empire, Olive Branch, and one or two others were running below. The Empire was hauled out this year, lay some two years awaiting repairs, and was then stripped and dismantled and the hull left to rot. The Nebraska was launched in March by Daniel Ball at the foot of Lyon street, and afterward put upon the up-river route. In March, a lake vessel, the sloop H. R. Williams, came up to the dock in this city.

1858. The Michigan, Olive Branch, Forest Queen, Pontiac, Nawbeck and Nebraska were on the river. The Porter was running above to Lowell, until the cars reached Grand Rapids in July. This boat made trips in every month for upward of a year from March, 1857. In August the Forest Queen was taken to Fox River in Wisconsin, and the Porter was lying above the dam by the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad bridge. The Nawbeck was stripped in July, and made into a scow.

1859. The Olive Branch, Michigan and Pontiac were running to Grand Haven. The Forest Queen in that year was taken through the Fox River into the Mississippi.

1860. The Michigan and Pontiac were running. The steamer Croton, which came from Muskegon, ran on the river for a time. The Michigan burned at Hovey's dock, July 11.

In the period from 1860 to 1865, were built, the Daniel Ball in 1861, and the L. G. Mason in 1864, each of which had a run of several years. The steamer Algoma was wrecked by a boiler explosion in June, 1864.

1865-70. The Daniel Ball and L. G. Mason were making regular trips in 1865. The Petroleum was built in 1865, for a freight boat. The L. and L. Jenison was built by Jesse Ganoe and Byron D. Ball in 1867, and ran upon the river eight years.

From 1870 to the present day there have been upon the river sometimes one and sometimes two steamers, plying regularly for passengers and mixed traffic; a portion of the time other steam

freight boats, and a considerable number of tugs and scows or tow boats. In May, 1873, the Daniel Ball left for Bay City. In the following winter the Wm. H. Barrett was built by Ganoe & Son, and for many years was a regular boat on the river. Another boat which ran for a time was the Schuyler Colfax. December 17, 1875, the Jenison was burned to the water's edge, at the lower landing in this city.

Among the river craft after 1874 were the following: Freight—the Samson, Dr. Hanley, and May. Tows—Fanny Shriver, Wm. Batcheller, J. W. Johnston, George Stickney, V. Gray, Stewart Edward, Claude, Duncan Robertson, Arctie, Tempest, St. Mary, Miranda, Jerome, Lizzie, Frank, J. T. Campbell, H. Warner, and Waukazoo.

Captain Jesse Ganoe, beginning in 1855, ran boats on the river for thirty-two years; built five of them and owned six.

In December, 1904, the Grand Rapids and Lake Michigan Transportation Company was organized for doing a transportation business on Grand River. During the season of 1905 the company built two large steamers, "The Grand" and "The Rapids." October 24th, 1905, "The Grand" made its initial trip down the river, taking the Board of Trade to the Claybanks. "The Rapids" was completed soon after. The following are the officers of the corporation and its announcement for the season of 1906:

W. S. Farrant, general manager; Robt. W. Irwin, president; Chas. B. Kelsey, vice-president; Wm. H. Anderson, treasurer; Henry T. Heald, secretary. Executive Board—Robt. W. Irwin, Chas. H. Leonard, Amos S. Musselman, Gaius W. Perkins, Henry B. Herpolsheimer.

## CHAPTER XXXI.

### THE PRESS OF GRAND RAPIDS.

#### **The Grand River Times.**

April 18, 1837, less than four years after the permanent settlement began, the first number of the first newspaper in Grand Rapids was issued. It was a weekly, six-column folio—four pages  $15\frac{1}{2}$  by  $21\frac{1}{2}$  inches—comparing well in size with many of more recent date. The following was its announcement:

#### GRAND RIVER TIMES.

Printed and published every Saturday Morning at the Rapids of Grand River, Kent County, Michigan.

BY GEORGE W. PATTISON,  
Editor and Proprietor.

Terms.—Two dollars and fifty cents per annum in advance, three dollars at the end of six months, or four dollars at the end of the year. Subscribers paying within thirty days from the time of subscribing will be considered in advance.

Village Subscribers, having their papers left at their door, will be charged fifty cents in addition with the above prices.

Advertising—For twelve lines or less. three insertions, One Dollar—and twenty-five cents for every additional insertion. Longer advertisements charged in proportion. A liberal discount made to those who advertise by the year.

No paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid, unless at the option of the publisher.

Fancy, Job and Book Printing, done with neatness and despatch at this office.

The story of the establishment of this paper was related by Mr. Pattison as follows: The Kent Company purchased for about \$4,000, the office material of the Niagara Falls Journal, and in the fall of 1836 shipped it from Buffalo on the steamer Don Quixote. The boat was wrecked off Thunder Bay Island, and the press and material were transferred to a sailing vessel, reaching Grand Haven late in the season. When it was landed, Mr. Pattison pur-

chased the printing outfit for \$4,100. During the winter he had it brought up the river on the ice by dog trains—six dogs to a sled. The sled which brought the press broke through the ice some miles below the Rapids, and went to the bottom of the river. The press was fished out and brought to town. The issue of the first number of the Times was a grand event, and nearly all the prominent citizens were at the office to see it come off the Washington hand press. Mr. Pattison relates that Louis Campau subscribed for 500 copies for a year, paying \$1,000 cash in advance; that the Kent Company took 500 subscriptions and paid in advance, and a large number of other persons took from ten to twenty-five copies each, which were widely circulated. The first copy was printed on silk-satin, and given to Louis Campau. Others were printed on cloth and distributed for preservation as souvenirs. The general news part of the paper was not copious. To get news from Detroit required from four to six days. It had occasionally a letter from Washington, written by some Government official. The Times was neatly printed, and in appearance would not suffer by comparison with most papers of the present time. Its publication office at first was on Canal street, a little south of Lyon. It was the official paper of the county, and printed the list of tax sales. The work was done by Mr. Pattison and apprentices, among whom were: James and John Barnes, and Aaron B. Turner. In the spring of 1838, the Times was sold to Charles I. Walker, who in January, 1839, sold it to James H. Morse and another. It was then suspended for a time, and job printing alone carried on, in a small wooden building near the corner of Kent and Bronson streets. The paper had another short run about the time of the Harrison campaign in 1840. It was not partisan, but both Whigs and Democrats were given opportunity to air their views in its columns.

#### **The Grand Rapids Enquirer.**

On or about May 18, 1841, James H. Morse & Company began the publication of the Grand Rapids Enquirer (weekly). Its office of publication was on "Bronson street, one door east of the Book Store" (now Crescent avenue, opposite the county building site). Associated with Mr. Morse was Simeon M. Johnson, who as editor named the paper, he being an ardent admirer of the Richmond, Va., Enquirer, a leading Democratic journal of those days. At

first the paper was professedly non-partisan, but in editorial sentiment was evidently Democratic. February 22, 1842, Johnson was succeeded by Ezra D. Burr, and from that date until May 31, 1844, the publishers were J. H. Morse & E. D. Burr. Burr was editor during that time, and until August, 1844. Meantime, in November, 1842, the office had been removed to Canal street, over Granger & Ball's store, which was where is now the Grinnell Block. J. H. Morse & Co. continued the publication until April 19, 1845, when Mr. Morse died. He was an industrious man and a practical printer, and although but twenty-eight years of age at the time of his death, had endeared himself very much to the community, and nearly all the villagers were in attendance at his funeral. After this event the firm name for a few months was M. E. Morse & Co. (Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Stevens). After November 3, 1845, the publishers were D. C. Lawrence & Co. (Dewitt C. Lawrence and Jacob Barns). June 5, 1846, and after, the firm name was Jacob Barns & Co. Robert M. Collins was at one time a partner. The name of Charles H. Taylor appears with that of Jacob Barns in the files of the paper, June 13, 1849, and disappears May 1, 1850. Subsequently the firm was composed again of these two men, who continued until after the establishment of the *Daily Enquirer*, in 1855. Thomas B. Church was editor from February, 1845, to April, 1847; after him Charles H. Taylor for a year or two; then Thomas B. Church again until January, 1851; next Edward E. Sargeant, till February, 1853, when Taylor became editor again and occupied that position as long as the proprietorship of Jacob Barns & Co. existed. For a brief interval in the summer of 1851, Solomon L. Withey was editor. Mr. Sargeant possessed a finely cultured mind, and his writings were highly polished. He died in 1858, aged thirty-seven years, much beloved by the community in which he had lived. Charles H. Taylor left the newspaper business about 1857. The printing office of the old *Weekly Enquirer* was an itinerant institution. From the place last above mentioned it moved in 1843 across Canal street to the Erie street corner; from there to the south side of Monroe street above Market; in May, 1848, across the street to a wooden building opposite the head of Market street; then in April, 1849, to the third story of Irving Hall. In 1854 it went into a new wooden building erected by its proprietors, near the southeast corner of Canal and Lyon streets, and in the following year



was moved diagonally across to where the Commercial Savings Bank now stands, where it remained till the consolidation of the Enquirer and Herald. Among its early political contributors were Charles I. Walker, Sylvester Granger and Alfred D. Rathbone. In politics this paper was Democratic, and in 1843 advocated the nomination of John C. Calhoun for President. Among the attaches of the office while it was in Irving Hall were: Solomon O. Littlefield, James N. Davis, Charles W. Warrell, and William Benjamin.

### **The Grand Rapids Eagle.**

The first number of the weekly Eagle was issued December 25, 1844, by Aaron B. Turner, then a young man of twenty-two. It contained the returns of the Presidential election of that year. It started as a Whig paper. Unsuccessful efforts had been made for its publication during the preceding political campaign, to which fact the Enquirer alluded, January 3, 1845, in the following notice of its new-born rival:

This bird—the was-to-be great auxiliary of the Whig party in the late battle—after a protracted incubation has at last broke its calcareous enclosure and come peeping forth into this breathing world. George Martin and C. F. Barstow are its “responsible” editors, from whose known peculiarities of sentiment we doubt not it will faithfully represent the old school of Whig politics.

Originally, the name of the paper was Grand River Eagle; afterward the word “Rapids” was substituted for “River.” As faithfully as the difficulties of maintaining an existence upon a small subscription list in a sparsely settled country would allow, the Eagle fulfilled its rival’s prediction, as a supporter of the Whig party, during the following nine years. With small means at command, the proprietor sometimes found it difficult even to procure the paper for its publication, and occasional suspensions of a few weeks were necessary. In 1848 it supported vigorously the Taylor Presidential ticket, and in 1852 that of Winfield Scott, though in the latter campaign it could not indorse the platform of the Whig party in reference to the agitation of the slavery question. After the election of 1852, the Eagle astonished the community, and many of its patrons, by appearing with the legend at its head: “An Independent Democratic Journal,” and declaring that the time had come for a new alignment; that Anti-Slavery Whigs must seek other affiliations, and the Democratic party be

opposed by a new organization. It promptly came to the support of the Free Democratic State ticket nominated at Jackson, February 22, 1854, and in July following as heartily espoused the cause of the newly organized Republican party, in which the Free Democratic party had been merged. It was ever after a Republican journal. In the publication of the weekly edition, its proprietor, Aaron B. Turner, had associated with him as business partners: in 1848, James Scribner; in 1849, A. H. Proctor; in 1851-52, his father, Isaac Turner. Among contributors to its editorial columns were: C. F. Barstow, George Martin and Ralph W. Cole.

#### **The Daily Herald.**

Alphonso E. Gordon came to Grand Rapids from Brunswick, N. J., and on March 19, 1855, began the publication of the Grand Rapids Daily Herald, the first daily newspaper in the city. Ostensibly it was a neutral paper as far as politics was concerned, but later came out squarely in support of the Democratic party. It quickly obtained a fair patronage in a community which until then had been supplied with only weekly papers for its local news. It was published until May 1, 1857, when it was consolidated with the Daily Enquirer.

#### **The Daily Enquirer.**

Jacob Barns & Co., of the old weekly Enquirer, began the publication of a daily issue November 19, 1855, with Charles H. Taylor as editor. William B. Howe was engaged as city editor, and this marked a new departure in local journalism. Jonathan P. Thompson became its editor in August, 1856. The Daily Enquirer was published under these auspices until May 1, 1857, when A. E. Gordon of the Herald purchased it, and consolidated the two papers. For a brief time a semi-weekly was published in connection with the daily Enquirer.

#### **Daily Enquirer and Herald.**

Associated with Mr. Gordon in this enterprise was Jonathan P. Thompson, a political and news writer, and the firm name was Gordon & Thompson. The partnership did not last long, on account of disagreement. The office property was seized upon a chattel mortgage, and, being carried away by unskilled hands,

was converted into more pi than has at any other time been **known in the annals** of Grand Rapids newspaper. Gordon immediately procured a new outfit and the publication of the Enquirer and Herald was continued in spite of the "forty thieves," as he designated those who had made the seizure. But its troubles were not then ended. In April, 1860, the plant, good will and subscription list were again taken, under a mortgage, and soon after Fordham & Co. (N. D. Titus) obtained possession, and continued the publication somewhat irregularly. E. D. Burr succeeded Fordham, and Burr & Titus published the paper, sometimes weekly and sometimes semi-weekly, until 1865, when Titus became the possessor and transferred it to Merrills H. Clark. The paper had announced the decease of its daily issue about November 21, 1864. Clark assumed control in August, 1865, and, to avoid an injunction threatened by Burr, who still laid claim to the property, changed the name to the Grand Rapids Democrat; and thus ended the troubled history of the Enquirer and Herald.

#### **The Daily Morning Democrat.**

Merrills H. Clark, in whose proprietorship, in August, 1865, the Democrat was started, sold an interest in the paper to Richard Burt, of Omaha, Neb. In a short time Burt resold to Clark, whose next partner was Clark C. Sexton. After Sexton, he had associated with him successively, Robert Wilson, H. P. Churchill, John L. E. Kelley, James N. Davis, Charles B. Smith, and Ambrose A. Stevens. July 29, 1877, Clark sold his interest to Messmore & Stevens (I. E. Messmore and A. A. Stevens), who conducted the paper until May, 1881, when Messmore became the sole owner, and August 1, 1882, transferred it to Frank W. Ball, who for many years was its proprietor. The Democrat; both daily and weekly, attained a handsome patronage, and was in the front rank of Democratic journals of the State, outside of Detroit. Charles A. French was for a time associated with Mr. Ball in the business management, and afterward upon the advertising force. John J. Belknap was for a time manager while I. M. Weston was in control. After him Wm. B. Weston was for nine years business manager. Among others employed in an editorial capacity, or as reporters, were: Wm. M. Hathaway, John A. Creswell, Harry L. Creswell, Wm. S. Hull, Wm. R. Maze, Fred. N. Peck, George W. Locke, Alfred B. Tozer, Henry G. Wanty, Thomas G.

Fletcher, Wm. J. Sproat, Joseph J. Emery, Clarence Colton, Burridge D. Butler, Mordecai L. Hopkins, Charles D. Ahmy and Col. M. A. Aldrich. True to its name, the Democrat in politics was an unswerving, straight-laced supporter of the Democratic party, and was considered its organ in Western Michigan.

The publication office of the Daily Enquirer when it started was at the corner of Lyon and Canal streets; that of the Daily Herald was in Irving Hall block; that of the Enquirer and Herald, after the consolidation, was on the west side of Canal south of Lyon, and thence after 1860 it went to Monroe street, above Market. After the change of proprietors and change of name, the Democrat establishment was removed to 22 Canal street; in 1873 it was at 8-10 Lyon street. In 1880 it had removed to 75 Lyon street, and in 1884 it settled at 93 Pearl street in the Houseman building and then in the Shephard Block. It uniformly ranked as the leading Democratic journal of this section.

On January 12th, 1891, I. M. Weston bought a controlling interest in the Democrat, and for some time controlled its politics. After Weston ceased his proprietorship various business and political interests were in control until its demise in January, 1902. On Sunday morning, January 26, 1902 appeared the last issue of the morning Democrat. The next day appeared in its stead the Evening Post as an evening paper, which ever since has been the Democratic journal of the city. The incorporators of the Evening Post Company were J. Clark Sproat, James Doran, and Clarence J. Loot. James Doran has been the business manager. Among its chief writers have been J. Clark Sproat, Wm. J. Sproat, and Frank W. Ball.

#### **The Daily Eagle.**

May 26, 1856, Aaron B. Turner, the proprietor and founder of the Grand Rapids Eagle, started the Daily Eagle as a morning paper. At that time the city had no railroad communication, no telegraph, no gaslight—not even kerosene light, nor any of many other things now considered almost indispensable for the publication of a daily paper. Night after night the compositors labored with straining eyeballs, to decipher by the flickering light of “burning fluid” lamps the blind telegraphic dispatches received by stage from Kalamazoo. The Daily Eagle was changed to an evening paper September 2, 1856, and with the exception of two

or three weeks in December, 1859, ever after continued an evening journal. Supplementary to it, however, the publication of a weekly Sunday Morning Eagle was begun November 20, 1887. In May, 1859, the first power press in this city was set up in the Eagle office. It was a Guernsey press, with oscillating cylinder, and reciprocating bed. At first it was worked by hand with a crank, but on November 3 of the same year, steam power was applied, with a small engine manufactured by Chester B. Turner; the fire-box, boiler, and engine occupying a space of only about three by five feet; the entire apparatus, including press, being in the same room with the business part. Thus the Eagle was the first to adopt steam in place of muscle for printing in this city. January 8, 1864, the Eagle printing office was burned, and February 22 of the same year the publication was resumed with the first Hoe press ever used in the city. In one respect the Eagle had a record probably not paralleled in the State: that of a publication of nearly fifty consecutive years without essential change in proprietorship, editorial control or political faith. From the first issue of its weekly edition (though from time to time have been associated with him several partners), it was under the control of its founder, Aaron B. Turner, as principal proprietor and editor-in-chief. Besides the parties heretofore named in connection with the Weekly Eagle prior to 1855, there were associated with him in the business: For about ten years from 1865, Eli F. Harrington; then for a year Fred H. Smith; then Harrington again until 1885. In May, 1882, Ernest B. Fisher became a partner; in 1885, Freeman S. Milmine; and in 1888, Willard S. Turner. July 15, 1888, a stock company was formed under the title of the A. B. Turner Company—President, A. B. Turner; Vice-President, E. B. Fisher; Secretary, W. S. Turner; Treasurer, F. S. Milmine. Albert Baxter entered the office of the Eagle in August, 1855, and assisted in the editorial department and as business manager until July, 1860. From September 4, 1858, until October 28, 1859, over the editorial column appeared, "A. B. Turner, Editor—A. Baxter, Assistant;" and from the latter date until July 14, 1860, "A. B. Turner and A. Baxter, Editors." That was the end of the custom of placing the names of the editors at the head of the newspaper columns. Lewis J. Bates was the political writer from 1860 to 1865, when Mr. Baxter returned as political writer and Managing Editor, and remained until July, 1887, when he retired

from journalism, and was succeeded by Theodore M. Carpenter, as principal political writer. Connected with the editorial staff of the *Eagle*, and there receiving a portion of their journalistic schooling were Clark C. Sexton, Robert Wilson, George Wickwire Smith, W. F. Conant, J. D. Dillenback, Frank Godfrey, Frank H. Hosford, Wm. S. Hull, E. A. Stowe, E. B. Fisher, Jonathan P. Thompson, Alpha Child, A. B. Turner, T. M. Carpenter, W. S. Turner, George A. McIntyre, Lewis D. Cutcheon and L. F. Williams. In the spring of 1894 the *Eagle* was purchased by E. N. Dingley of Kalamazoo who ran it for a few months and on October 27th, 1894 sold it to the *Herald*, and the *Eagle* which for forty-eight years as a daily paper had helped to mould public opinion and shape the destinies of Grand Rapids ceased to exist.

During the first twenty years and more of its existence, the *Eagle* printing office had a migratory career. The weekly issue was started in the second story of a wood building on Market street, opposite the *Eagle* Hotel, December 25, 1845. Shortly afterward it was moved to another wood building on the north side of Monroe street, opposite the head of Market. Thence it went to the Rathbone Buildings—a stone block, north corner of Ottawa and Monroe; in 1847 to Franklin Block, Canal street at the northeast corner of the canal basin; in 1848 to Faneuil Hall, corner of Monroe and Market, in 1849 to a low wood building at the southeast corner of Canal and Lyon; about 1850 to the Sons of Temperance or Public Hall building, east side of Canal between Lyon and Bronson streets; in 1852 to Faneuil Hall again; in the spring of 1856 to the “Tanner Taylor” building, where is now Campau Place; in February, 1857, to the brick block at the southwest corner of Lyon and Canal streets; in 1861 to a frame building which stood on its present location; was there burned out, January 8, 1864, and then went into Squier’s Opera House, where its press was run by water power; next, February 10, 1868, was established in the *Eagle* Building, 49 Lyon street, erected by its chief proprietor, where it remained until its absorption by the *Herald*.

#### **The Daily Times.**

The first number of the Grand Rapids Daily Times was issued April 17, 1870, by Clark C. Sexton. In 1871 Nathan Church purchased a half interest, and was its editor two or three years. Don

Henderson and George W. Gage then held an interest in it for a short time, and afterward in the proprietorship were Myron W. Tarbox, Harry H. Pierce, and John M. Harris. In 1876 Nathan Church resumed control, which he retained as long as the paper was issued. Professedly the Times was an independent journal, politically and otherwise; in fact it was a sort of free-lance paper, with points turned every way. In its later days Gouverneur B. Rathbone was interested in it financially. Upon its staff at times, among others, were Theodore M. Carpenter, F. J. Hobbes, A. B. Tozer, Charles H. Hamblin, and J. G. Hann. It was purchased by Frank W. Ball and merged in the Democrat, July 21, 1886, on which day its last number was issued.

#### **The Evening Leader.**

This daily journal was started by the Leader Publishing Company, February 14, 1879, ostensibly as an independent exponent of what were called "Greenback" or "National" politics. The principle stockholders of the company were: Henry S. Smith, C. C. Comstock, Wm. H. Powers, John C. Blanchard, L. V. Moulton, Wm. P. Innes, John L. Curtiss, P. S. Hulbert, and Wm. A. Berkey. Members of its staff were: S. B. McCracken, James H. Maze, Wm. B. Weston, and A. W. Johnston. Among those connected with it as editors or reporters were George W. Gage, F. H. Hosford, J. W. Mills, W. R. Maze, Herbert Parrish, W. B. Weston, David R. Waters, Lewis G. Stuart and Henry M. Rose. Its tone, usually was that of a supporter of Democratic party politics. W. B. Weston was its proprietor during the last years of its existence. It ceased to exist with the year 1892, and was merged into The Press.

#### **The Morning Telegram.**

This was first issued September 30, 1884, by Harford & McDowell (W. M. Harford and Hugh McDowell), as a Republican journal. January 21, 1885, The Telegram Publishing Company was organized. Among its principal stockholders were: A. B. Watson, D. A. Blodgett, Henry Spring, N. L. Avery, Hon. M. S. Crosby, and C. G. Swensberg. Harford & McDowell, however, held the controlling interest until April 17, 1886, when it was sold to Lloyd Brezee and Fred G. Berger.

**The Telegram-Herald.**

May 20, 1885, Lloyd Brezee started Brezee's Herald, a weekly society paper which was published about eleven months. April 17, 1887, Lloyd Brezee and Fred G. Berger, having acquired control of the Morning Telegram, bought Brezee's Herald and consolidated the two under the title of The Telegram-Herald, adding a Sunday morning edition devoted chiefly to society matters, to take the place of Brezee's weekly. Brezee's name appeared as editor and proprietor, and the paper was declared independent in politics. August 3, 1888, E. D. Conger, with the financial backing of C. G. Swensberg, purchased the interest of Brezee and Berger, thus securing control of the paper, and turned the majority of the stock thus purchased over to Swensberg. Under the new management the paper was made Republican in politics, and secured a fair degree of patronage. C. G. Swensberg was President of the company, and E. D. Conger, Secretary and Manager. On its staff have been Hugh McDowell, F. W. Boughton, Ed. E. Smith, Mrs. Etta S. Wilson, W. A. Innes, H. M. Rose, J. D. McIntyre, W. J. Sproat, Charles Hamblin, W. C. Graves, Herbert Parrish, Melnott Grummond, Chas. Young, Charles Emerson, James Ferguson, Lewis M. Miller, Thomas K. Hunt, Bert Hall, Horace Cambron, A. S. Hopkins, the Rev. S. H. Woodford, George B. Catlin, S. H. Sweet, Charles P. Woodward, J. Emery, Will Conger, L. G. Stuart, W. Frank Knox, and W. H. Turner. On the death of C. G. Swensberg E. D. Conger obtained a controlling interest of the paper and was its proprietor until April 2, 1905, when the control of the paper was purchased by Ralph Booth who conducted the paper until March 17th, 1906, when it passed into the hands of Wm. Alden Smith.

For many years the Herald was published from the building at the corner of Pearl and Campau streets, but on November 5th, 1905 it moved to the Herald building on East Fulton street.

It is the leading Republican paper of Western Michigan.

**De Standaard.**

A Holland paper started January 28, 1875, by J. Van Strien and Dennis Schram. Published as a semi-weekly in 1877, with Isaac Verwey as editor. Subsequently Gerrit Visschers, and G. Schoenmaker were editors. Since 1881, Dennis Schram has been



proprietor. It was Democratic in politics for many years but is now a Republican journal.

#### **The Press.**

On the first Monday morning of September, 1890, the first number of the morning Press was issued. Wm. J. Sproat was its founder. It ran under his proprietorship till November 5th, 1891, when the Press Publishing Company was organized. Among its members were D. R. Waters, Wm. J. Sproat, Charles K. Gibson, E. F. Doty, E. L. Briggs, Charles E. Emerson, A. A. Weeks and A. A. Ellis. Soon after a controlling interest was purchased by George Booth who soon after purchased the Evening Leader. The two were consolidated and made an evening paper January 1st, 1893. Less than two years after the Evening Press had the afternoon field to itself and for many years it was not only the leading but the only evening paper of the city. It has always been independent in politics. It was first published from 63 Pearl street. For many years it has occupied a building on the river bank at the east end of the Pearl street bridge. In the summer of 1906 it expects to occupy its new building at the corner of East Fulton and Sheldon streets, at the head of Monroe street.

W. W. Turner was manager for many years of the Press and was followed by C. S. Burch. It has always been a penny paper and has made its imprint upon Grand Rapids and its history.

#### **Michigan Artisan.**

An eighty page monthly, mechanical trades journal, established by Arthur S. White in 1880; a flourishing paper still edited by its founder. It is published by the Michigan Artisan Co. from No. 2 Lyon street.

#### **Michigan Tradesman.**

An eight page commercial weekly, established in 1883 by Ernest A. Stone, who is its editor. It has attained a high standing and is published by the Tradesman Co. It is published at the corner of Ionia and Louis streets.

#### **The Chronicle.**

The labor organ of the city was established in 1884 by I. S. Dygert. E. D. Fuller was its first editor. Wm. M. Hatheway,

E. P. Mills, A. M. Wolihan were connected with it for many years. Until October 1st, 1897, it was known as the Workman when it was purchased by W. B. Weston from Mills and Leonard and the name changed to the Chronicle. It is published from the Herald Building.

### **The Furniture Record.**

This trade journal was established in June, 1900. It is a leading Furniture journal of the country and maintains a high grade artistic standard. It was founded and is carried on by the same interests as maintain the Dear-Hicks Printing Company and is issued from the office of that institution.

Grand Rapids has given to journalism some bright lights. Theo. M. Carpenter who was long on the old Eagle has been for many years the chief editorial writer of the Los Angeles Times, a leading journal of the Pacific coast. Hugh McDowell, one of the founders of the Herald, has also long been connected with the Los Angeles Times. Henry M. Rose, for a long time with local papers, has for many years been in Washington official life and at present is Chief Clerk of the United States Senate. His writing instinct often asserts itself and he has written novels, sketches of Washington life, and articles of historical and political interest. Joseph J. Emery is Cuban correspondent for the Associated press. For some time he was connected with local papers since which he has been in the Orient and other parts of the world as newspaper correspondent and news gatherer.

Bowman, the sketch artist and caricaturist, did some of his early work on the Grand Rapids Herald.

Seymour Birch Conger, the Associated press correspondent from St. Petersburg, was a graduate of the Grand Rapids high school and learned to push the pencil in local newspaper offices.

Will Conger, who owns and manages a newspaper in California, learned his profession in the Herald office.

J. H. Hannen of Traverse City was for some years a newspaper man in Grand Rapids.

W. Frank Knox of Sault Ste. Marie, learned to "scoop" news, write editorials and business management in the Herald office of Grand Rapids after the Cuban war.

Grand Rapids has given to the world some excellent newspaper men and they have not all left the city.

**Newspaper Epitaphs.**

—The wise, the good,  
 Fair forms and hoary seers of ages past  
 All in one mighty sepulcher  
 —All that tread  
 The globe are but a handful to the tribes  
 That slumber in its bosom.

—Bryant.

Thus wrote the young poet concerning the dead—and thus might be written of the dead newspapers of earth, and especially those of Grand Rapids. The graves of more than seventy of the departed ones are here identified and marked; and to them, probably, might be added a few more before this book comes from the press:

**Young Hickory.**—A Democratic campaign sheet, issued from the Enquirer office in 1844.

**Wells' Advertiser.**—A monthly real estate paper, started in the summer of 1856 by Revilo Wells, associated with whom was Bennett N. Sexton.

**Valley City Advertiser.**—A social and literary monthly, successor to Wells' Advertiser, published by B. N. Sexton for several years.

**The Grand Rapids Press.**—A semi-weekly newspaper established by Jonathan P. Thompson and Charles B. Benedict in 1857, after the dissolution of the firm of Gordon & Thompson, publishers of the Enquirer and Herald.

**The Great Western Journal.**—A weekly newspaper, first called the Grand Rapids Journal, established by Thomas D. Worrall, in October, 1858. Uri J. Baxter, E. G. D. Holden and Justus C. Rogers were connected with this paper for a time as editors.

**The Young Wolverine.**—A four-page monthly "young folks' journal," published one year, from July, 1857 to July, 1858, by Charles W. Eaton and Wm. S. Leffingwell. A well edited paper, which has not been surpassed in neatness of typography by any of its successors.

**De Stoompost.**—The first Hollandish paper published in the city. Issued in 1859 by Jacob Quintus; sold by Quintus to Henry D. C. VanAsmus, and suspended after an existence of some seven years.

**The Industrial Journal.**—A labor weekly issued in February,

1867, as the successor of the Valley City Advertiser and Laboring Man's Advocate, by J. B. Haney, agent of the Labor Union Publishing Company; afterward published for a short time by John G. Lee.

**Grand Rapids Daily Union.**—A short-lived evening labor paper, issued by the Labor Union Publishing Company, July 30, 1867, with Ezra D. Burr as editor.

**The Labor Union.**—A tri-weekly labor paper published by John G. Lee in 1868-69.

**The Grand Rapids City Advertiser.**—A trade paper of twenty-eight pages, quarto, issued quarterly throughout 1869, by J. D. Dillenback.

**The Sun.**—A Greenback daily, published about 1869-70, by Marvin & Co.—short lived.

**Der Pioneer.**—An independent German weekly paper; the pioneer German paper of the city, published in 1871-72, by Carl Nienhardt. Suspended after a life of nearly two years.

**The Saturday Evening Post.**—An eight page literary newspaper, founded by D. N. Foster, October 4, 1873, with Wm. M. Hathaway as assistant editor. In 1877 C. H. Dubois acquired control of the property, and in February, 1879, sold it to Creswell & Felker (John A. Creswell and P. H. Felker). In 1880 Charles A. French purchased Mr. Felker's interest. John A. Creswell, who now became editor, was a newspaper man whose sharp, incisive pencil, had made his pseudonym of "Cres" well known all over Michigan. The famous "T. T." (Town Talk) column will long be remembered. The paper was not a financial success, and in December, 1882, was sold to E. O. Rose, of Big Rapids. Mr. Rose, after some three years' experience, sold it to J. W. Hallack, who made it a Prohibition paper, and the journal breathed its last in the spring of 1886.

**The Valley City Enterprise.**—A weekly started in 1873 by I. Ransom Sanford, devoted to the interests of the West Side. Subsequently published by W. N. Fuller and J. H. Maze. Sold in the fall of 1874 to Carpenter & Garner.

**Journal of Fashion.**—A monthly fashion journal, published in 1873 by J. E. and W. S. Earle.

**Michigan Staats Zeitung.**—A weekly German newspaper, established in December, 1874, by Wm. Eichelsdoerfer. The paper

was well supported for a time, but suspended after an existence of some ten years.

**The Independent Press.**—Successor to the West Side Enterprise. Published by Carpenter & Garner as a Spiritualist paper for a few months in 1874-75.

**The Daily Evening News.**—Printed Dec. 3, 1874, by Arthur S. White and W. F. Conant. Died after a life of five months.

**De Wachter.**—A semi-monthly Hollandish religious newspaper established in Holland city in 1868. Removed to this city in 1875, and published by the Rev. G. E. Boer.

**Michigan Amateur.**—An amateur monthly published in 1876.

**The Evening News Item.**—A daily, published by J. D. Dillenback and others in 1876-77.

**The Argus.**—A Greenback, afternoon daily, published in 1876 by Myron W. Tarbox.

**The Evening Mail.**—A co-operative daily, started in June, 1876, by a company of printers. The co-operation failed to co-operate, and after two months it died.

**Grand Rapids Greenback.**—A weekly, started by Slocum & Holt in March, 1877. The paper was run as a weekly some six months, when Holt retired and Slocum made it a daily. It was short lived.

**Grand Rapids Sonntags Blaak.**—A German literary weekly, established by Wm. Eichelsdoerfer in 1877. It lived about nine years.

**The Evening National.**—Published by R. M. Slocum as a Greenback daily in April, 1878. Successor to the Grand Rapids Greenback.

**De Nieuwsbode.**—A tri-weekly, independent, Hollandish paper, published three months in 1878, by Timothy Haan & Co.

**The Standard.**—A Greenback weekly, published in the winter of 1878 by Louis Gale, and afterward by W. A. Innes and W. B. Weston. Merged in the Leader.

**The Evening Enquirer.**—The Daily Evening Enquirer, a revival of the weekly Enquirer, suspended in 1865, was issued in August, 1878, by M. H. Clark. The paper was started as a Democratic organ, but soon changed to Greenbackism. It ran but a few months.

**The News and Price Current.**—A weekly published in 1878.

**The Diamond.**—An unsavory weekly published in 1879 by Louis Gale.

**Society News.**—A short-lived weekly published in 1881 by George B. Catlin.

**The Truth.**—A weekly, published by Benson Bidwell in 1882, in the interest of a Quixotic enterprise conducted under the name of the Union Trust Company.

**Saturday Evening Herald.**—A weekly published in March, 1883, by H. A. Brooks.

**The Clipper.**—A weekly published in 1882, at 46 Canal street, by Charles S. Gates.

**The Daily Sun.**—An independent afternoon paper, published for eight months of 1883, by W. F. Cornell and E. A. Hoag.

**The Boycotter.**—A small weekly printed in 1883 by Hufford & Randall, backed by the Typographical Union. Its existence was ephemeral.

**Our Mutual Friend.**—A monthly, published in 1883 by J. G. Beecher.

**German American.**—A small weekly sheet started in 1884 by Hermann Hammerschlag. Devoted to the interests of Hebrew German-Americans.

**Progressive Age.**—Successor to the German American. A radical and aggressive free-thought paper, published weekly. Hermann Hammerschlag, proprietor and editor.

**The Labor Union.**—A weekly labor paper, run four months of 1884, by Asa Barrows, David Hufford and Paul Randall, as successor to the Boycotter.

**Labor Herald.**—The Labor Union was published for a short time under this title, by T. J. Mosher.

**The Boy in Blue.**—An organ of the Sons of Veterans, published in 1886 by T. J. Mosher.

**The Michigan Soldier.**—A Grand Army and Sons of Veterans organ, successor to The Boy in Blue, published by T. J. Mosher, and afterward sold to Eugene Carpenter, in whose hands it died in 1888.

**The School Newspaper.**—An educational weekly, published in 1883-84 by the School Newspaper Company.

**Nieuwe Courant.**—A weekly Holland paper, published in 1884 by Jacob Quintus.

**York's Musical Journal.**—An eight page monthly musical journal, established in 1884, by J. W. York & Son.

**The Globe.**—A literary weekly, published in 1882-84 by Godwin

& Adzit and F. Homer Hosford. Merged in the Daily Times.

**The Radical.**—A weekly, devoted to radical Democracy, started February 16, 1884, by W. J. Sproat. Sold to F. W. Ball and merged in the Democrat in September, 1883.

**The Critique.**—A weekly journal issued in 1885, by the Dawn Publishing Company.

**The Message.**—A small sheet published in 1885-86 by the South Congregational Church, and devoted to the church's interest.

**The Michigan Manufacturer.**—A small sixteen page monthly published in 1885 by E. A. Stowe & Brother. It lived one year.

**The Land Journal.**—A monthly real estate paper, which A. A. Root & Co. published in 1886.

**Tozer's Saturday Mail.**—A literary weekly, two issues of which were published by A. B. Tozer in December, 1886.

**Michigan Building and Real Estate Journal.**—A monthly, published by Harford & Alschwager, 48 Lyon street. W. M. Harford, editor, 1886.

**The Evening News.**—A short-lived daily, issued in 1886 by the Evening News Publishing Company. (Paul Randall and others.)

**Real Estate World.**—A monthly real estate journal, published by C. S. Edwards in 1886.

**The Germ.**—A prohibition weekly, published in 1886 by the Rev. George Candee. Afterward merged in the Center, at Lansing, Mich.

**The High School Journal.**—A monthly school paper, published by the High School Lyceum throughout the school year, 1886-87.

**The Sunday News.**—A weekly, published in November, 1886, by W. J. Mather, of Toronto, Canada. Its life was but a span—two issues in length.

**Sunday Tribune.**—Three numbers of a weekly with this title were issued in 1886, by one Roberts.

**Common Sense.**—A radical free-thought weekly, published in 1887, by A. C. Everett.

**The Baptist Record.**—A four page religious monthly, published in 1887-88, by the Young People's League of the First Baptist Church.

**The Deltan.**—A school magazine, organ of the Gramma Delta Psi fraternity published in the High School in 1887-88.

**The Rector's Assistant.**—An ably edited monthly, devoted to

the interests of St. Paul's parish, published by the Rector, Rev. J. Rice Taylor, in 1887-88.

**Monthly Bulletin.**—A small sheet published in 1886-87 by the Y. M. C. A., in the interests of the Association.

**Your Paper.**—A monthly, published in 1887 by Carpenter & Adams, proprietors of Hearth and Hall.

**Svenska Veckobladet.**—A Swedish weekly, published in 1887 by C. A. Wickstrom.

**The Agitator.**—A weekly, published in 1887 by Alfred Rindge.

**Business Reporter.**—A daily, published for two months in 1887 by W. A. Innes and E. A. Antisdal.

**De Banier Des Volks.**—A Republican Hollandish weekly, published for three months in the fall of 1888 by Van Houtum & De Haan.



## CHAPTER XXXII.

### LIBRARIES, SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE AND MUSEUM.

#### **The Public School Library.**

As early as 1843 a small library was established by the Grand Rapids Lyceum Association, the nucleus of which was a chest of books discovered in the attic of a school house, and brought to the new town by a young lawyer. Some additions were made from time to time until its catalogue showed two or three hundred volumes, mostly small, and miscellaneous in character. About 1850, by a formal vote, the association turned them over to the Mechanics' Mutual Protection lodge, and the latter added to the library both by purchase and from contributions. When the M. M. P. dissolved, in 1859, this library was distributed among the individual members. Many volumes of it are still preserved in private libraries.

**Lyman E. Patten**, who came to Grand Rapids in 1845, was an active member of the Mechanics' league. Mr. Patten well remembers how books were prized in the early days. Robert Hilton, Baker Borden, and James D. Robinson were leading spirits in the organization. Mr. Patten went into business in 1850 and on semi-annual visits to New York city used to bring back books which were purchased for the library.

Mr. Patten possesses a number of the volumes of this early library. Josephus' works, Plutarch's "Lives," a book on etiquette, "The Perfect Gentleman," Sear's "Bible Biographies," Burritt's "Geography of the Heavens," White's "History of France," Pollock's "Course of Time" were prime favorites. In poetry Mrs. Sigourney, Mrs. Browning, Byron, Milton, Henry Kirk White and Coleridge were most popular; and the "Schonburg Cotta Family" Poe's "Tales," "Madam Guyon's Life and Religious Experiences," "Lorna Doone," "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "Vara, a Child of Adoption," satisfied the novel reading portion of the early readers.

February 24, 1858, a "large and enthusiastic" meeting was held in Luce's Hall "for the purpose of organizing a Mercantile

Library Association within the city of Grand Rapids." The Rev. F. H. Cuming presided. The following preamble and resolution were adopted:

Whereas, History and experience have conclusively demonstrated the truth that a Public Library is an indispensable necessity in every well-regulated community;

Resolved, That this meeting deem it expedient and necessary, both for the credit of the city and the proper improvement of society, that such an institution be speedily founded in our city.

Committees on constitution and by-laws and for the solicitation of funds, were appointed at this meeting. Further steps were taken at subsequent meetings, and the name was changed to the Grand Rapids Library Association. At a meeting held May 5, 1858, the organization was perfected by the election of the following officers: President, William J. Welles; First Vice-President, Henry Martin; Second Vice-President, Eben Smith, Jr.; Corresponding Secretary, John King Dunn; Recording Secretary, Thomas C. Boughton; Treasurer, Norris T. Butler; Managers, S. B. McCray, William Hovey, F. B. Gilbert, P. J. G. Hodenpyl, Charles H. Taylor, George H. Hess, Harvey Gaylord. The association was incorporated and began work with ninety-six members and fifty-one stockholders, a library of 771 volumes of selected works, and \$769.14 in the treasury. Quarters in the Luce block were rented, and a librarian hired at a salary of \$150 a year. Thomas B. Church delivered a dedicatory address before the association in the evening of May 14. In November, 1858, the library was moved into rooms in the eastern part of Lovett's block. After the first enthusiasm had subsided, the financial support began to fall off, and the annual report of the executive committee tells a story of a hard struggle. Lecture courses were instituted to retrieve the failing fortunes of the Association, but receipts were far below expenditures, and year by year it fell behind financially, until in October, 1861, it was obliged to mortgage its library and fixtures for the security of a debt of \$250. November 5, 1861, in default of payment, and the Association being without resources the managers, Thomas D. Gilbert, N. L. Avery, P. R. L. Peirce and S. O. Kingsbury so adjusted the matter that the property was transferred to Eben Smith, Jr., as trustee, in satisfaction of the mortgage debt. Within a short time after this, the Association gave its library, numbering 855

volumes, to the Board of Education of District No. 1. It was then removed to the Central School building, and consolidated with the Public School Library.

A small library of less than one hundred volumes had been collected by the district at an early date, and was kept in the garret of the old stone school house. This library had received several additions, among others the property of an organization known as the City Library—and with this new acquisition numbered some 2,000 volumes. A room in the tower of the Central school house was occupied by the consolidated library. According to the terms of consolidation, members of the Library Association were entitled to the use of its volumes free of charge. Pupils of the several schools of the district were required to pay fifteen cents each term as a registration fee, for the maintenance of the library. Residents of the city not members of the school were given the privilege of the library during the school year upon the payment of a registration fee of thirty cents. Owing to the location of the library, however, the circulation of the books was not general among citizens.

#### **The Ladies Take Hold.**

With the organization of a ladies' club in 1869-70, begins the story of an important phase in the history of the Public Library. A Ladies' Reading Club (the forerunner of the Ladies' Literary Club) had been organized during that winter, under the inspiration of a series of historical lectures delivered by Mrs. L. H. Stone, of Kalamazoo, and this club felt the need of books. The school library was practically inaccessible, and the ladies resolved to have a library of their own. Mrs. L. D. Putnam, Mrs. S. L. Withey, Mrs. S. L. Fuller, Mrs. A. J. Daniels, Mrs. O. A. Ball, Mrs. H. J. Hollister, and many other prominent ladies, set about the work of raising funds and in a comparatively short time \$1,200 was obtained. With this sum a room was fitted up and Miss Frances E. Holcomb was placed in charge of the library of 1,000 volumes. The membership dues were an initiation fee of \$2, and an annual fee of \$1, none but members being allowed the use of the library. The first year this City Library Association, as it was called, had 300 members, and it continued to prosper until its library contained 1,200 volumes of history, biography,

travels, miscellany and fiction. After an experience of a year and a half the ladies came to the conclusion that the interests of all concerned would be better served by uniting their library with the school library and a small library of 50 books belonging to the Y. M. C. A. Accordingly committees were appointed, composed of A. L. Chubb and James H. McKee, on the part of the Board of Education; Mrs. S. L. Withey, Mrs. L. D. Putnam, Mrs. W. A. Howard, and Mrs. L. H. Randall, on the part of the City Library Association, and Harvey J. Hollister, C. G. Swensberg, and Edwin Hoyt, Jr., on the part of the Young Men's Christian Association who agreed upon a basis of union involving substantially the following points:

First, that the books of the Ladies' Library be used in conjunction with the other two libraries; second, that a committee composed of an equal number of members from the Board of Education and Ladies' Library be selected as directors for the general care of the library and the selection of new books; third, that in the selection and appointment of Librarian, other things being equal, preference be given to a lady; fourth, that the library be situated in a central and convenient location.

The first joint committee selected in accordance with this agreement, consisted of the following ladies and gentlemen: Moreau S. Crosby, C. G. Brinsmaid, James H. McKee, A. L. Chubb, Mrs. S. L. Fuller, Mrs. W. A. Howard, Mrs. L. H. Randall, Mrs. L. D. Putnam.

The new organization went into effect and the library was opened Dec. 21, 1871, in rooms on the second floor, north side and near the foot of Monroe street. Miss Frances E. Holcomb, the librarian of the Ladies' Library, was continued in office under the new regime. This union brought together 4,045 volumes, derived from the following sources: Library of School District No. 1, 2,564 volumes; the West Side School Library (formerly kept in the Union School building and open to the public), 200 volumes; the Ladies' Library Association, 1,231 volumes; the Y. M. C. A. Library, 50 volumes. The consummation of this union, and the removal of the books to an accessible central location, were events which made the library a power in the community. Previously its usefulness had been restricted to the schools and to the comparatively small membership of the Ladies' City Library Association. Now the library was open to the public, the people

generally were interested in its welfare, and the institution began to flourish. Volumes were added by donation and purchase, and the circulation increased rapidly. During the first year 3,000 people drew books. In the annual report of the library committee to the board of education September 7, 1874, these gentlemen said, "We are firmly impressed with the opinion that the interests of our growing city will demand either a fire proof library building of our own, or rooms in some city building, where there shall be greater safety from fire, and a central permanent location for an institution that commends itself to public favor." This report showed the flourishing condition of the library at that date. There were 6,601 books, with a circulation of 71,657, and 5,471 cards were issued for the year ending July 1, 1874. The salaries paid were as follows:

Librarian \$500; first assistant, \$250; second assistant, Saturdays at 75c, \$39; second assistant, for taking care of rooms, \$60. The Y. M. C. A. paid one-third the cost or \$283, leaving the board of education to pay \$566.

Each year the number of books added to the library increased, until measures for their removal to more commodious quarters became necessary. This was effected in 1875, when the library was reopened to the public with enlarged facilities in the second story of the Ledyard Block, at the corner of Ottawa and Pearl streets. Even those rooms became cramped by the expansion of the institution, making a considerable enlargement necessary before the removal of the library to the City Hall, in October, 1888. There it occupied commodious quarters for a time until its growth demanded more room.

In December, 1876, Miss Holcomb, having become Mrs. C. R. Bacon, wished to retire from the office of Librarian, and the joint committee from the Board of Education and the City Library Association, were unable to agree in naming her successor; the ladies recommending Miss H. S. Nash for the office, the gentlemen nominating Mrs. Alfred Putnam. The gentlemen triumphed, and in January Mrs. Putnam was installed as Librarian for the year 1877. At the close of the year there was another disagreement, the ladies and two gentlemen of the committee recommending Mrs. George Lee, and a minority reporting in favor of the continuance of Mrs. Putnam. Mrs. Putnam was re-elected. These disagreements resulted in the dissolution of the union between the

Ladies' Library and the Public Library in 1878. The ladies upon retiring took with them the 1,200 books originally belonging to their association, which eventually came into the possession of the Ladies' Literary Club, and now, with additions, constitute the library of that organization. The ladies during their connection with the Public Library were untiring in their efforts to promote its welfare. In many of the library committees' reports to the Board of Education, acknowledgments of the services of the ladies are made in terms of the highest praise.

#### **The New Management.**

After the separation the government of the library rested for many years in the hands of the Board of Education. Mrs. Putnam continued to serve as Librarian until January, 1884, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Frances C. Wood, who worthily performed the increasingly arduous duties of that office until February, 1886, when she was relieved by H. J. Carr.

In October, 1888, Mr. Carr accomplished an arduous task in the rearranging of the library, made necessary by its removal to the new City Hall library rooms. Much remained to be done in the way of cataloguing before the library could be completely reduced to system. Appreciating this fact the Board of Education, at its regular meeting in January, 1889, employed Miss Grace Denio, of New York, an expert cataloguer for this special work. The rapid growth of the library during this period may be comprehended by a study of the following statistics gleaned from the Librarian's report to the Board of Education for the year ending September, 1888:

"The whole number of volumes in the library at the beginning of September, 1887, was 17,243; in September, 1888 it contained 21,500 volumes an increase during the year greater than the total of volumes in the library at the time of the consolidation in 1871. The number of volumes at present is twice as great as the total in 1880—the institution thus growing more rapidly than the city, which according to the United States censuses of 1870 and 1880, requires about ten years to double its population. Of the present library 16,649 volumes are in the circulating department; 535 are general works kept in the reference library, together with 1,305 magazines and periodicals in the same department, and 811 are

“reserved stock” or books which are unclassified and not used either for reference or circulation. Classified according to languages, there are in the library 20,465 books printed in English; 516 in German, 457 in the Holland, and 47 in other tongues. During the past year the library was open for the drawing of books 308 days, and 98,059 volumes were issued for home use to the holders of 6,158 library cards. The largest issue in a single day was on St. Patrick’s day, 1888—734 volumes.”

In her public school library Grand Rapids had an institution of which the people might justly be proud. The library for many years was under the control of the Board of Education as a part of the public school system, and was free to every resident of Grand Rapids. Special reference libraries were provided in nearly all the schools for the exclusive use of pupils. Funds for the running expenses were provided by appropriations from the Board of Education. These appropriations, amounting to from \$3,000 to \$4,000 yearly, were used mainly in the payment of salaries; the Librarian received \$1,200 per annum and the assistants received \$400 each. The funds derived from the application of criminal fines as provided by State laws varying from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year were usually sufficient for the purchase of new books and reading matter. Between \$200 and \$300 was also collected annually from fines charged for over-due books the sale of catalogues and other items. Miss Elizabeth Steinman, Miss Lucy Ball, Miss Emma C. Boxheimer and Miss Lizzie C. Leet constituted the corps of assistants for the year 1888-89 after its removal to the City Hall.

The library remained under the control of the Board of Education until September 7th, 1903, when it passed under the control of the Board of Library Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids. The last year it was under the control of the Board of Education there was expended for books \$2,840.33, for building \$1,631.55 and for library expenses \$10,102.05. In the reference department there was a total attendance of 25,535. In the juvenile department there was a total circulation of 39,393. During that period it remained in rooms on the second floor of the City Hall, which became very crowded, so there was not adequate room either to care for the books, or accommodate the public. In 1900 Mr. Andrew Carnegie made many gifts of library buildings to American towns and cities. His attention was called to

the conditions and needs of Grand Rapids, but before he could made any formal offer to the city a native born son who had become a resident of another city made a generous offer to Grand Rapids and the Iron King gracefully withdrew.

**Mr. Ryerson's First Letter.**

During the administration of Mr. Perry as mayor a communication was received from Mr. Martin A. Ryerson of Chicago, offering to erect a suitable library building if the city would provide the site. This letter was as follows:

New York, Feb. 23, 1901.

Hon. George R. Perry, Mayor, Grand Rapids, Mich.:

Dear Sir—As you may have learned at the time I had the pleasure of presenting the city the land for the Antoine Campau park, I was born on the old Antoine Campau homestead, which stood on that site, and I have therefore always had a natural affection for Grand Rapids as my birthplace. I have observed with pride its steady and vigorous growth, and it has been especially gratifying to note that its progress has been along intellectual as well as material lines, as evidenced by the growth and activity of the public library.

This library has particularly attracted my attention, and, having made inquiries concerning it, I have found that while it is an active and efficient factor in your civic life and in your public school system, it labors under the disadvantage of very inadequate and insufficient accommodations. The authorities have recognized this disadvantage to the extent of submitting to the voters a proposition to issue bonds to procure funds for the erection of a library building, but it was rejected by a small majority. I am informed that the reasons which determined this result did not deny the desirability of the building, but rested on other considerations; and my object in writing you to ascertain whether my information is correct in this particular, and whether the citizens of Grand Rapids desire a library building. If the necessity for one is greatly recognized and there is a willingness to assume the expense of maintenance, I shall be glad to submit to the authorities a proposition to erect a suitable building and present it to the city. Awaiting your reply, I am very sincerely yours,

Martin A. Ryerson.



The generous offer of Mr. Martin A. Ryerson was accepted and the Board of Education selected for the site the northeast corner of East Park and Bostwick streets.

The land for the building was bought from the Allen estate, George R. Allen, Mrs. Adele M. DeVore and Darwin D. Cody, at a cost of over \$52,000. The purchase was made by a board of education committee of which Dr. Joseph Albright was chairman. The buildings at that time standing on the property were removed and work for the foundation of the new building begun early in 1902. There were several other sites considered, among them the Howlett site, at Washington street and Jefferson avenue, where now is the Museum. The present location is more central and was chosen after careful deliberation.

The agreement between Mr. Ryerson and the people was signed August 28, 1901, by H. E. Locher and Ed H. Stein for the board of education. Martin A. Ryerson retained entire management of the construction of the building, and was even so thoughtful that he took out \$100,000 insurance on the library and turned it over to the library commission in charge of the library.

The building was constructed by C. Everett, Clark & Co., and the architectural work was done by the same company that designed the Chicago Public library, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge. Its total cost was about \$275,000.

On July 4, 1902, the corner stone of the library building was laid with official ceremonies. Hon. Charles E. Belknap was chairman of the Committee on Arrangements; Benn M. Corwin, President of the Board of Education, presided; and Col. George E. Judd was marshal. The corner stone was laid with Masonic ceremonies under the direction of Hon. Neal McMillan, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Michigan. Rev. John N. McCormick gave the invocation; girls from the public schools under the direction of Miss Florence Marsh sang the national anthems; the orator was Hon. John Patton, while the benediction was given by Rev. E. G. Lewis.

On April 2, 1903, an act passed the Legislature creating a Board of Library Commissioners for the control of the Public Library of Grand Rapids. It was submitted to a vote at the following election on April 6th, and was carried by a 6,842 for it, and 3,930 against it. Commissioners were elected at the following school election in September, 1903. There were many candi-

dates, but the successful ones were C. L. Harvey, J. A. S. Verdier, Hon. John Patton, Rev. Henry Beets, and J. A. J. Friedrich. In drawing lots for terms of office they drew in the order named: Mr. Harvey was re-elected in 1904. There was no election in 1905, but under the new charter a successor to Mr. Verdier will be elected in the spring of 1906. When the Board organized Mr. Patton became President, and Mr. Harvey, Secretary. The Superintendent of Schools is ex-officio, a member of the Board.

**The Board of Library Commissioners of the Grand Rapids Public Library** for 1904-1905 was as follows:

J. A. S. Verdier, 193 Ransom street, term expires Sept. 1, 1905; John Patton, 36 State street, term expires Sept. 1 1906; Rev. Henry Beets, 77 Lagrave street, term expires Sept. 1, 1907; J. A. J. Friedrich, 160 Livingston street, term expires Sept. 1, 1908; C. L. Harvey, 138 Madison avenue, term expires, Sept. 1, 1909; W. H. Elson (ex-officio) 17 Campbell Place.

#### **Officers of the Library Commission, 1904-1905.**

John Patton, President; C. L. Harvey, Secretary; O. E. Kilstrom (ex-officio), Treasurer.

#### **Standing Committees.**

On Administration, Messrs. Harvey, Elson; on Books, Messrs. Elson, Beets; on Finance, Messrs. Verdier, Friedrich. The President is ex-officio a member of all Standing Committees.

#### **Library Staff.**

The Library Staff for 1905 was as follows:

Samuel H. Ranek, Librarian; Elizabeth Steinman, First Assistant Librarian, in charge of Reference Department; Annie A. Pollard, Second Assistant Librarian, Librarian's Secretary and in charge of the Order Department; Adah C. Canfield, Cataloguer; Ida L. Rosenberg, Superintendent of Circulation; May G. Quigley, Children's Librarian.

#### **Assistants.**

Marina D. Allen, Assistant Superintendent of Circulation; Frances B. Turner, Assistant Reference Librarian; Florence E. Rey-

nolds, in charge of Registration; Georgiana M. Hubbard, in charge of Newspaper Room and Binding; Anna H. Spinner, Assistant to Librarian's Secretary; Audie B. Sinclair, in charge of Accessions and Shelf List; Cornelia S. Campbell, Assistant to Cataloguer; Eleanor M. Hickin, Assistant in Registration Room.

#### **Book Mender.**

Minnie L. Brandau.

#### **Pages.**

Walter S. Schultz, full time; Louis A. Berridge, full time; Ralph H. Anderson, part time; Frank R. Sessions, part time; Walter T. Tate, part time.

#### **Engineer.**

William Reeves.

#### **Janitors.**

Adrian Olree, Mrs. Anna Schmidt.

The moving from the "old home into the new," the dedication of the new library building and a description of the building are best given by extracts from a report of the librarian made April 1, 1905.

#### **Report of the Librarian.**

"This past year has been, in several ways, one of the most important in the history of the Library. The old quarters in the City Hall, now the offices of the Board of Health and the City Engineer, which served as the home of the Library since 1888—in recent years a most inadequate one—were vacated and the splendid new building, the gift to the City, of Mr. Martin A. Ryerson, of Chicago, was occupied; this new building was formally dedicated; and a number of important changes in the staff went into effect. Any one of these would have made the Library year noteworthy. All together they awakened a public interest in the Library, the effects of which will doubtless be felt both directly and indirectly for many years.

#### **Library Closed for Moving.**

The moving out of the old home into the new took place in June, 1904, and for this purpose every department of the Library

was closed for twenty-four days, from May 23 to June 19, inclusive, except the Reference Department, which remained open in the old quarters until May 28. The effect of this closing on the circulation is shown in Appendix F. The total recorded use on May 21, the last day in the old quarters, was 510—398 representing books that were drawn for home use. The use of the Reference Department on May 28, the last day it was open in the old quarters, was 70. Work in the new building began on June 20, with a total recorded use of 561—462 representing books drawn for home use.

### Moving of the Library

The following account of the moving of the Library will be of interest, both historically and otherwise. It was written by Miss Steinman, who was Librarian at that time.

In planning the removal of the Library there were several points to be taken into consideration: First, that the doors should be closed to the public as short a time as possible; second, that the removal should be accomplished with the least possible disturbance to the other occupants of the City Hall, where the Library had been located for sixteen years; third, that it should be done in so systematic a manner as to require a minimum amount of work and yet attain the best possible results. To this end plans were laid, considered and reconsidered for weeks beforehand by the Librarian.

The first point to be determined was the exact location to be occupied by every volume in the new building, so that books when removed could be immediately placed where they belonged, thus saving several handlings.

The floor plan of the stack room was obtained from the architect, and the Library statistics studied so that those books in greatest demand might be placed in the most accessible places. As there are five stacks, besides the basement, the first, on the main floor immediately back of the receiving counter was filled with fiction, literature, travel, history, German, Holland and bibliographical works.

In the second stack was placed philosophy, religion, sociology, language, natural science, fine arts, biography, French and Polish books. The third, fourth and fifth stacks were planned to be

devoted to the Reference Department. Here the bound periodicals, bound newspapers, medical books and government documents would be stored. The arrangement of the books for each shelf in the new stack was carefully planned and the books were packed with this in view.

About 21,000 volumes of the present Library were moved from the Ledyard Block from October 5 to 17 1888 having been cleaned by clapping at that time. The only cleaning the books had had since then had been the ordinary dusting. It therefore seemed necessary that the accumulated dust and germs of sixteen years should be thoroughly removed before taking the Library to its new location.

Although the bookcases and furniture used in the City Hall would not be necessary in the completely fitted Ryerson Library building, yet they were all moved, as some could be used in the basement, and the rest would be useful when branch libraries were established; so they also had to be cleaned. The method employed was as follows: Several men and women were hired to do the heavy work. The men took the books from the shelves and placed them upon library trucks, being careful to keep them in their proper order. When a truck was full it was wheeled to a point near an open window, where a tub of water was standing. Half a dozen galvanized tubs had been rented for the purpose, and were kept full of fresh water. The men would take two books from the truck and first clap them together, knocking dust and dirt from the surface into the water. Then each book was taken separately, opened over the tub, and the leaves aired by holding the back up, with one cover horizontal, and allowing the leaves to fall rapidly, thus emptying the book of any loose objects it might contain. It was a marvel to the workers to see how the water absorbed the dirt. The variety of objects that fell from the books was surprising and included combs, hair pins, matches, tooth picks, strings, scraps of cloth and paper, hair ribbons, shoe strings, feathers, and many other objects too numerous to mention; in fact, everything almost that would be placed in a book—except money. Meanwhile one of the women had thoroughly cleaned the shelves and when the truck was wheeled back, another removed the books and, carefully wiping them with a cloth, placed them back on the shelves as before.

After the entire Library had been gone over in this way with

conscientious care, it was thoroughly fumigated through the courtesy of Health Officer Koon and his assistants, thereby destroying any germs that might have remained.

The books were then ready for removal to their new home. Shoe boxes had been procured, each holding from 20 to 25 volumes. Iron handles were attached to each box. Most of these boxes and handles were afterward sold. The books were packed in the boxes by classes. For instance, in fiction, the "A's" were packed first, each box being numbered as packed in its proper order, so that it was easy to tell just where the books it contained belonged. When they were removed, it was found just how many boxes a wagon would hold, and the last of the series was loaded first. Thus, if 12 boxes could be carried in a load, number 12 was first loaded, then number 11, and so on, number 1 coming last. When unloaded at the new Library, number 1 was the first to be removed, and those books the first to be placed upon the shelves. The Library force was divided, half remaining at the City Hall to oversee the work there, the remainder of the force being at the new building to superintend the work of placing the books on the shelves in their respective places and arranging the Catalogue Department.

The boxes, as fast as emptied, were taken back to be used again. It was a puzzle to the delivery men why they could not take the boxes from the City Hall as fast as they were filled with books, instead of having to wait for them to be placed in a certain order. They could not comprehend that much trouble and unnecessary handling were saved by the system employed. The Library being located on the second floor of the City Hall, to carry the books down stairs would have caused disturbing commotion in the halls. Besides, the boxes filled with books were very heavy, and the halls and stairs were long. A plan was devised, therefore, to save time and work by moving from the window. A chute was built from one of the windows, so that the boxes could slide down, landing on a platform built level with the delivery wagons. Ropes were used to steady the boxes in their descent. From this platform the men loaded the boxes onto the wagons according to numbers. At the new Library a derrick had been built, with a platform large enough to hold the largest box. As each box was placed on the platform it was raised by means of a pulley to the proper stack, when the box was taken through the window

and its contents immediately placed on the shelves in their proper order. Owing to the care taken to keep each box in its place, the labor was greatly diminished, as the books did not have to be handled more than absolutely necessary.

The cost of moving the Library, including laborers, help and material bought was about \$548.

The doors of the new building, completely arranged and in working order, were opened June 20, 1904, it having taken 24 days to clean and move about 52,000 volumes, besides five or six thousand pamphlets, which comprised that part of the Library which was in the City Hall.

#### **Dedication of the New Building.**

The dedication of the new building took place on October 5, the day being a municipal holiday. In the forenoon the Antoine Campau Park, also a gift to the City from Mr. Ryerson, was dedicated. The programme in the afternoon at 2:30, the exercises of which took place in the Park Congregational Church, directly across the street from the Library building, was as follows:

Presiding officer, Mayor Edwin F. Sweet; Invocation by Rev. R. W. McLaughlin; Presentation, by Mr. Martin A. Ryerson; Acceptance for the Board of Library Commisisoners (in which is vested the administration of the Library), by John Patton, President of the Board; Acceptance for the Board of Education (in which is vested the title of the property), by Cyrus E. Perkins, President of the Board; Address (an exposition of the function of a public library), by President James B. Angell, of the University of Michigan; Benediction, by Rev. Henry Beets.

The whole building was open to the public for inspection only, all through the day, and was visited by thousands of people. In the evening, from 8 to 10, a reception, to which the citizens generally were invited, was given to Mr. and Mrs. Ryerson at the Library. It was estimated that 5,000 people visited the building in the evening. The floral decorations for this occasion were supplied by the City Department of Parks. The music by an orchestra was an additional feature of the evening.

#### **Building Described.**

It seems appropriate to give a somewhat detailed account of the building itself, several views and plans having been pub-

lished. It is 124x68 feet, with a large wing for stacks, projecting in the rear 47½x58 feet, which is practically isolated from the main part of the building. The style of the architecture is Renaissance, though Greek in its simplicity. The stone work around the entrance is, however, finely carved, as is the cornice. Above the cornice is an ornamented terra cotta cheneau, from which the tile roof recedes. The uppermost part of the roof is covered with glass, which serves as a skylight for the large halls.

Entering the building, in the vestibule one sees a tablet with the following inscription:

THIS BUILDING  
ERECTED FOR THE USE OF  
THE GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
WAS PRESENTED  
TO HIS NATIVE CITY  
BY  
MARTIN A. RYERSON  
ANNO DOMINI MDCCCCIV

There are six stack rooms, with a total capacity of nearly 120,000 volumes. Two electric book lifts extend through all the stack rooms. The floors of these rooms are of glass. The stacks themselves are built up independent of the floors, the space between each stack being unusually wide, four feet, so as to permit a considerable measure of public access. There are open shelves in the Newspaper and Magazine Room (from which current magazines are circulated), in the Children's Room, and in the Registration Room, about two-thirds of the circulation from the building being from these rooms. All books are returned, however, at the main delivery desk, directly in front of the stacks. The Historical Room contains a collection of books, maps and manuscripts relating almost wholly to Michigan. The shelves here are closed, though there are several glass cases in which to display rare books and manuscripts. In some respects the work in this room is largely reference. All the wood-work and furniture in the rooms on the first floor are a beautiful oak.

The marble in the building usually attracts the attention and receives the admiration of visitors and none more so than the stairway from the first floor to the second. This stairway leads to



a hall corresponding to the hall on the first floor, except that it has a large light well in the center. Around this light well there is an iron balustrade with a base of marble and a mahogany rail on top. The Reference Room, 60 x-38 feet, is on the right, and the Lecture Room, with the same dimensions, is on the left. The Lecture Room is fitted with 262 opera chairs and the attachments necessary for lectures illustrated with a lantern. In the rear of the hall on the second floor are toilet rooms, a dressing room for the women of the staff, and a study room. Leading from the stacks, above this floor, are three other study rooms, a lunch room for the staff, and a room for the Board of Library Commissioners. The furniture in the Reference Room is all of mahogany and that of the Lecture Room also, except the opera chairs, which are of birch with mahogany finish.

The marbles in the several public rooms (base board and door frames) are all a beautiful green. The marbles in the halls, except the floors, are a beautiful violet breccia. The marbles on the floors and stairways are white Carrara, with several vari-colored French marbles laid in mosaic.

The color scheme for the whole interior of the building received much thought and study and is most striking and pleasing in its effect. Pompeian red is the color of the walls in the halls, with ceilings of a mellow ivory. The railings, light fixtures and hardware on the doors are dulled with verdigris. The doors themselves are covered with green leather, studded with brass.

The building is lighted entirely by electricity and heated by steam, both by direct radiation and by a fan which drives heated air into all the public and work rooms, thus providing ventilation at the same time. The fan is eight feet in diameter and is driven by a 16-horsepower electric motor. A battery of three Mercer sectional boilers generates the steam for the heating, which is used at low pressure. There are nearly 40 rooms in the building, the size of which is not fully conveyed by a front view.

The following shows the expenses of the Library and the receipts for the year ending March 31, 1905:

#### **Expenditures.**

Salaries .....	\$12,336.19
Binding .....	1,445.63
Supplies .....	947.14

Miscellaneous .....	3,654.09
Petty expense .....	818.19
Paid for books .....	5,919.48
Paid for periodicals .....	763.93
Deposits refunded .....	30.00
Supplies .....	327.28
Catalogue cards .....	20.00
Miscellaneous expenses .....	249.11
Services .....	198.93
Paid for books for renting.....	190.74

**Receipts.**

Balance on hand, April 1, 1904.....	\$ 1,727.45
General tax budget .....	20,000.00
Order issued and returned.....	45.00

**Receipts From Book Fund.**

Balance on hand, April 1, 1904.....	\$2,767.28
Police Court fines .....	2,453.00
County fines .....	1,931.16
Book fines, etc .....	737.18
Transfer from Library Expense Fund.....	127.10

**Money Collected at the Library.**

Fines from overdue books .....	\$620.69
Deposits from non-residents.....	37.50
Sale of catalogues .....	1.10
Sale of bulletins .....	2.00
Fines from lost and damaged books.....	19.09
Postals for reserved books.....	8.47
Stamps .....	1.08

**Rental Fund.**

From Book Fund .....	\$45.00
Rentals and fines, July-November .....	75.55
Rentals, December-March .....	66.78
Fines, December-March .....	10.27

The following have been librarians of the Public Library for the years indicated: From 1871 to 1873 inclusive, Miss F. E. Holcomb; from 1874 to 1877 inclusive, Mrs. F. E. Bacon; from 1878 to 1884 inclusive, Mrs. Alfred Putnam; 1885-6, Mrs. Frances Wood; 1887 to 1890 inclusive, Henry J. Carr; 1891 to 1901 inclu-

sive, Miss Lucy Ball; 1902-3-4, Miss Elizabeth Steinman; 1905, Samuel H. Ranck who assumed his duties October 1, 1904.

The following table shows the books added to the Library year by year, the cards issued as far as data can be obtained, and the number of books drawn by the public. The year that the Library was moved there was a falling off in the number of books drawn.

Ending	Books Added	Cards Issued	Books Drawn
1872	1,123	2,371	30,975
1873	707	3,923	59,377
4	725	5,471	71,657
5	1,219	7,210	92,073
1876-7	707	1,428	87,070
1878-9	1,426		61,961
1880	986	991	62,552
1	1590	1,138	60,832
2	722		61,282
3	303	1,342	60,171
4	1,181		71,005
5	1,170		78,060
6	741	2,541	100,752
7	653	4,174	72,986
8	4,592	2,303	98,317
9	1,430	3,659	100,974
1890	1,489	3,084	117,845
1	3,858	3,900	125,879
2	3,847	4,103	147,592
3	2,587	4,706	160,213
4	6,963	7,101	202,285
5	2,635	4,977	192,526
6	3,621	6,014	178,182
7	6,680	5,682	232,313
8	3,148	5,286	216,864
9	3,050	5,421	204,545
1900	2,099	5,337	185,286
1	2,460	5,745	197,971
2	3,019	5,229	194,504
3	1,472	5,494	195,155
4	1,555	3,921	123,680
5	4,066	7,238	242,907

The number of volumes in the Library on April 1st, 1905, was 66,520.

**The Use of the Library for the Year Ending March 31, 1905, is  
Shown by the Following:**

Children's Room .....	45,908
General Circulating Department .....	54,254

Registration Room .....	36,307
Current numbers of periodicals.....	1,225
Medical Library .....	21
Rental collection .....	1,423
Mounted pictures .....	208
Philip Sidney Patton Memorial Library (38 vol.).....	760

Total circulation from Ryerson Library building....	140,106
School circulation .....	48,383

Total home use.....	188,489
Readers in Newspaper Room (week days).....	30,317
Readers in Reference Room (week days).....	17,810
Sunday and Holiday readers in Reference and Newspaper Rooms .....	3,466
Books from stacks used in Reference Room.....	2,795
Readers in the Medical Library .....	30

Total recorded use of the Library .....242,907

Statistics of the use of the Grand Rapids public library, comparing the year of 1905 to that of 1904 are as follows:

	1904	1905
Cards issued .....	6,198	7,326
Cards in force .....	11,514	13,503
Books issued (home use) .....	181,456	215,257
Readers in reading rooms .....	41,159	72,820
Total recorded use of library.....	226,327	294,679
New books added .....	2,808	7,379
Cards added to catalogue..... *		23,708
Gifts (books, pamphlets, etc.).... †.....		19,048
Books in library .....	64,489	71,203

\*Number not kept in 1904.

†Number not kept for calendar year.

One of the most beneficent featuers of the public library is the Philip Sidney Patton Memorial case of books for sick and crippled children. On November 23, 1903, Mr. Patton, President of the Board of Library Commissioners, presented to the Board the following letter:

"I hereby offer to equip and maintain a collection of children's books in a suitable case, to be used as a traveling library for the sick and crippled children of our city, to be called 'The Philip Sidney Patton Library for Sick and Crippled Children,' as a memorial to the little boy I have recently lost. This is a department of library work which has been successfully inaugurated elsewhere, and if agreeable I should like to see it tried here."

The generous and gracious offer of Mr. Patton was accepted and the case of books placed in the library.

The case is usually sent for a period of two weeks to children recovering from a long illness, suffering with broken bones, or similar accidents which make them "shut-ins." Nearly all these children are visited in their homes by the Children's Librarian in order to keep in touch with them and to get the child's point of view with reference to the books sent. This personal touch is of the greatest value, both to the Library and to the child. Incidentally, these visits, together with the books themselves, often awakened an interest in the Library in the neighborhoods where its use was almost unknown. The coming of the box is usually an event to all the little friends of the sufferer, and it is found that it carries the message of good books to many more than those to whom the case is sent directly. The memory of the boy who is gone will be cherished forever, and the thoughtfulness of his parents for others will carry happiness to many a sick room in the years to come.

Under the painstaking direction of the Board of Library Commissioners, and the efficient management of the libraries, the public library of Grand Rapids since it was given a permanent home by the liberality of Mr. Ryerson is rapidly becoming a living force for education, culture and righteousness in the community. It meets the needs of the hour; it gives good books and literature to the people; it gives lectures on live topics by eminent men and women; it aids the public schools in teaching pupils how to find and use books in connection with their school work; it affords excellent facilities to the special student for original investigation and research; it helps the merchant to obtain knowledge for increasing his trade; it assists the artisan in improving his handicraft; it helps the manufacturer to find a market for his goods, in short, the library has within its walls knowledge for every man, woman and child in the city which only needs use to make Grand Rapids irresistible in the march of progress and its inhabitants capable of realizing their highest personal ambitions.

#### **Kent Scientific Institute.**

In 1855 a society was formed under the name of "Grand Rapids Lyceum of Natural History." Its principal active members were A. O. Currier, John Ball, James H. McKee, Charles Shepard,

Franklin Everett, Joel C. Parker, W. L. Coffinberry, Wm. G. Henry and Wm. H. DeCamp. Its meetings were held with a good degree of regularity until the breaking out of the War in 1861, when the organization was allowed to die out. The original intention was to establish a museum and library. Prof. Everett had a cabinet of minerals, geological specimens and fossils, which he used in his academy, and Mr. Currier and Dr. DeCamp also had fine collections. These were placed in the room of the society, as loans for its use. Of these the owners resumed possession after its apparent demise. During its active existence the discussions of the Lyceum, on natural history, and cognate scientific subjects were entertaining and highly instructive.

In 1865, George Wickwire Smith, a lad whose genius outran his years, gathered about him a number of youths in the Union School, and organized a club which he named the Kent Institute. He was a young man of rare promise; though modest and diffident, he had the irresistible ardor of enthusiasm as a student of Nature which kindled a like spirit in his associates. Simple, child-like and loving, he won the confidence and warm affection of all who came in contact with him. But consumption had laid its wasting touch upon him, and he sank under it, dying March 31, 1869, when but 21 years of age in Florida, saying to his weeping father: "Bury me where there are the most butterflies." In 1867, young Smith, desiring to put, before his death, his Kent Institute upon a permanent footing, proposed to those who had been members of the Lyceum of Natural History, that the two societies be combined. This he accomplished—the articles of association bearing date January 2, 1868, under the name, suggested by him, of Kent Scientific Institute.

This Institute grew and prospered from its incorporation. Its first officers, elected January 11, 1868, were: President, John Ball; Vice-President, A. L. Chubb; Recording Secretary, W. H. McKee; Corresponding Secretary, George Wickwire Smith; Treasurer and Librarian, C. H. Winchester. The objects of the Institute were stated to be: "The increase and diffusion of scientific knowledge by a museum, library, lectures, the reading of original papers, and other suitable means." The names of John Ball, A. O. Currier, A. L. Chubb, James H. McKee, G. Wickwire Smith, C. H. Winchester, Theo. B. Willson, Frank W. Ball and John Mathison are affixed to the Articles of Association.

January 12, 1869, an alliance was formed between the Board of Education and the Kent Scientific Institute, by the terms of which the latter had the use of certain rooms in the Central School Building for its museum and for its business and public meetings, and also of the scientific apparatus of the school; and on the other hand the students and teachers of the school had the privilege of using the scientific specimens and the library of the Institute. When this contract was made two new officers were provided for—a Director and Curator—to be nominated by the Institute and confirmed by the Board of Education. Under this arrangement the organization had for many years a vigorous existence, holding meetings twice a month for discussions and the transaction of general business.

#### **The Museum.**

When the reorganization took place under the name of Kent Scientific Institute, those who had formerly contributed by loans of exhibits to the Lyceum of Natural History, presented them to the new society. From the small nucleus the museum grew to be among the finest scientific collections in the West. In 1874 Prof. E. H. Crane's collection of Indian relics was purchased. The museum also had valuable archæological relics that were largely the product of W. L. Coffinberry's researches in the local Indian mounds. The mineral collection was large, and from almost all parts of the world; and the department of fossil material was well filled. Of mollusca the Institute owned some 2,000 specimens, and, through the enterprise and generosity of Mrs. Cordelia T. Briggs, had in its keeping the Currier collection, comprising a much larger exhibit of shells. A. O. Currier was an enthusiastic conchologist of national repute, and the discoverer of several new species. Dr. W. H. DeCamp was a large contributor to the museum. It contained over 600 specimens of North American birds, comprising nearly a complete exhibit of Michigan birds, and 21 representative specimens from South America. In 1887 the Institute contracted with Prof. E. L. Moseley, who was about to go to the Philippine Islands, to supply the museum with 100 species of the birds and mammals of that region. He brought those and more, including a large fruit-eating bat. The collection also contained a great variety of specimens of the lower orders, such as reptilia, lepidoptera, crustacea, beetles, fishes, and other

marine animals. The herbarium had some 725 species of plants, collected by N. Coleman a former member of the Institute.

After the new Central High School building was completed, the treasures of the Kent Scientific Institute were stored in various rooms and adjoining buildings and the collections were used to aid the teaching of natural history in the schools. In February, 1893, C. A. Whittemore became curator of the museum and for many years taught and studied natural history, but there was divided authority between the Kent Scientific Institute and the Board of Education and the result was divided responsibility. The collections were added to from time to time but interest lagged and enthusiasm waned. Mr. Whittemore was a capable curator and an enthusiastic naturalist, but as the years went by, age and poor health diminished his vigor and activities. The Kent Scientific Institute languished; its specimens became dust covered, and many of its treasures moth eaten.

Mr. Whittemore did not receive pay for his services and finally instituted legal proceedings against the Kent Scientific Institute for his wages. While the litigation was pending the directors of the institute executed a bill of sale of the collection and library connected with it to the Board of Education with the understanding that if the pending litigation was decided in favor of the Kent Scientific Institute the bill of sale was to be delivered to the Board; if the suit was decided against the Kent Scientific Institute the bill of sale was to be returned and it was expected that in such an event the collections and books would be sold to pay the judgment and costs of litigation.

In November, 1901, it was reported that by decision of the Supreme Court Mr. Whittemore had no legal claim for his services as curator and thereby the bill of sale could be delivered to the Board. Thereupon the Secretary of the Board of Education was authorized to obtain the bill of sale. At the same meeting the Board of Education bought the rights and title of the estates of Dr. DeCamp and A. O. Currier in the books and collections of the Kent Scientific Institute. In this manner the Kent Scientific Institute practically passed away, and the Board of Education obtained complete control of the property of the Kent Scientific Institute. The museum as an institution received a new lease of life. At the same meeting the Board of Education voted to care for and house the museum and its library and provide suitable cases for its specimens.



In December, 1901, the Board of Education empowered its committee on the Kent Scientific Museum to employ H. E. Sargent, the curator of the museum of the University of Michigan, to come to Grand Rapids, look over the Kent Scientific Institute museum, and advise as to proper rooms for the display of the museum and the cases necessary for the proper reception of the specimens. During the next few months the museum was put in shape in the auditorium of the Central High School. Mr. Sargent

In May, 1902, the Board of Education purchased the stuffed birds and other specimens of the estate of Dr. DeCamp. In September, 1902, it was reported that the museum had been installed in the auditorium of the Central High School. Mr. Sargent was an employee by the Board of Education until March, 1903, when he was engaged as curator of the Kent Scientific Museum at a salary of \$1,500 per year.

On February 3, 1903, the Board of Education authorized its committee on Kent Scientific Museum and Mr. Sargent to inspect collections for additions for the museum. On February 24, the committee reported and recommended that the Kost collection at Adrian, Mich., be purchased at a price of \$5,000.00, and at the same meeting a resolution was offered that the Howlett property at the corner of Jefferson avenue and Washington street be purchased for a museum building at a cost of \$17,500.00. At a special meeting of the Board of Education held March 23, 1903, it was voted to purchase the Kost collection and the Howlett property. The entire Howlett site was purchased at a cost of \$22,000.00.

In September, 1903, the Board of Education purchased the collection and library of C. A. Whittemore and they became a part of the Kent Scientific Museum.

On November 3, 1903, Dr. E. S. Holmes, who for many years was President of the Kent Scientific Institute, was appointed custodian of the museum building. In February, 1904, by resolution of the Board of Education the title of curator of the Kent Scientific museum was changed to that of "director" of the museum and his salary was made \$1,800.00 per year.

On January 7, 1904, the museum was formally opened to the public. The dedicatory exercises were held at the St. Cecelia Building at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Hon. Charles Holden, chairman of the Kent Scientific Museum presided. The speakers

were Professor Griffith and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Delos Fall. Mayor Palmer, on behalf of the people of Grand Rapids accepted the Museum. Rev. J. Herman Randall delivered the invocation and Rev. George Eliot Cooley gave the benediction. The High School Mandolin Club rendered the music.

Since the museum obtained a suitable and permanent home there have been many collections of value added. In 1905 several public spirited citizens purchased and presented the Dupree collection. The Cole collection of pottery of the cliff dwellers has been added and now attracts much attention.

In the autumn of 1904 there was discovered on the farm of Charles McKay in Moorland township, Muskegon county, the remains of a mastadon. Mr. Sargent, the director of the museum, hearing of the find, purchased it, and superintended its removal from the place where discovered. It has now become one of the chief features of the museum, as in many respects it is one of the best preserved mastodon skeletons ever found. In connection with it was found the skull of a musk ox which so far as known is the only one ever found in the United States.

Each year many collections are loaned to the museum and give much benefit to students, and pleasure to the public.

In 1905 the skeleton of a whale was purchased and a shed erected for its cover and protection. The whale shed will become an annex to the museum and part of its attractions.

The public museum is rapidly becoming an important factor in the civic life of Grand Rapids. It is used by students and school children and has great educational value. It is visited by thousands each year for entertainment. During the last nine months of 1905 more than 43,000 visitors passed through its doors.

Its present officers and attendants are H. E. Sargent, Director, Edwin R. Kalmbach, Assistant Director; E. S. Holmes, Custodian; Harry Morman, Assistant; Thomas H. Peacock, Janitor and Engineer.

Under the new charter the Board of Education will cease to exist in the spring of 1906, and the control of the museum will pass to the Board of Library Commissioners, but it has become necessary to the educational growth of the city, and the material prosperity of its citizens, and is sure to flourish under whatever management it may be placed. It has become one of the sights

of the town. Excursionists flock to its portals and naturalists seek its treasures. The Kent Scientific Institute has ceased to exist but its work has grown to be a power in the community where it was born and fostered.

**Enos Putman** was born in Monterey, New York, December 24, 1832. In 1868 he became a resident of Grand Rapids, and lived here until his death January 11, 1898. At the time of his death he was President of the Board of Public Works. He was an owner of Michigan pine lands, and located in Grand Rapids to look after his holdings. Soon after coming to the city he became interested in the wholesale grocery trade, and continued in that business until his death. For many years he was President of the Ball-Barnhart-Putnam Company. He was also President of the Peninsular Trust Company before it became merged in the Michigan Trust Company. From its organization he was a director of the Grand Rapids National Bank, and from 1894 to his death was its President.

In politics he was a Gold Democrat. In his religious affiliations he was a Baptist and was a trustee of the Fountain St. Baptist Church.

December 13, 1865, at Lavona, New York, he was married to Miss Harriet Rutherford. At his death he left a widow and two daughters, Estella R., who is now Mrs. Willard Barnhart, and Helen R., who lives with her mother at the old home at the corner of South College avenue and Washington street.

Mr. Putnam was not given to ostentation, but he did his share in building up Grand Rapids and her institutions.



*Erno Puhman*



## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### POLICE DEPARTMENT.

“Safety and equal government are things  
Which subjects make as happy as their kings.”

Few American cities have a police force equal to that of Grand Rapids, and none has better. The Police Department of the city was organized in 1871. Prior to that time order was maintained by regular peace officers of the law, paid by fees and aided by the general good will and moral support of the people. The first night watch of Grand Rapids was Henry Baker, who was appointed in 1856 and for many years patrolled Canal and Monroe streets between Lyon and Ottawa streets. He was faithful and efficient, and no doubt the burghers of those days felt as secure in the darkness as they now are under the watchful care of twenty-five regular policemen who patrol the city during the night watch, aided by street lights, electric towers and telephones.

#### **The First Police.**

In June, 1871, a regular paid police force was organized with one chief and eight patrolmen. The chief of police was James L. Moran. The eight patrolmen were: Wm. Ormond, Jacob Hoek, Thomas McLane; Wm. O'Conner, Charles H. Saunders, Sanford Tucker, Washington L. Stinson and Wm. H. Whalen.

The police force was under the direct management of the Mayor and Common Council until 1881, when a bill was passed by the Legislature creating for the city of Grand Rapids a Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and placing under their control the police and fire department of the city. The act was drawn and advocated by Nathaniel A. Earle, who was a well known lawyer of those days and who that year was a member of both the State Legislature and the Common Council of Grand Rapids. The act provided that the Board should be composed of five commissioners, that George G. Briggs should be commissioner for one year, Orville L. Howard for two years, Lewis H. Withey for three years, Wm. H. Powers for four years and Israel C. Smith for five years,

if confirmed by the Common Council of Grand Rapids; that every year thereafter the mayor should appoint a member of the Board who should hold office for five years subject to confirmation by the Common Council; that vacancies should be filled by the Mayor's appointment in the same manner. No commissioner can hold any other elective or political office. The Board annually elects its President from its own number and a secretary must be an elector of the city. The Board has full and complete control of the police department of the city and can appoint as many policemen as it deems necessary not exceeding three for every two thousand inhabitants, and can appoint special police in times of emergency.

When the members of the board named in the act creating it came before the Common Council for confirmation Orville L. Howard declined the office and the Mayor named in his place George W. Gay who together with the others named in the act were confirmed. The Board organized on the evening of June 7th, 1881, at Police Headquarters. George G. Briggs was elected President and C. W. Calkins was elected Secretary. Mr. Calkins declined the office and Alpha Childs was elected and acted until the following August, when he resigned and Alfred A. Tracy was elected and acted as Secretary until April 27th, 1882, when he in turn resigned and Benjamin F. McReynolds was chosen and since that date has filled the office to the complete satisfaction of the Board and the public, being elected each year since without opposition and without question. The President of the Board almost without exception has been the member whose term of office soonest expired. The following list includes all members of the Board since its organization:

George G. Briggs.....	1881 to 1883
George W. Gay.....	1881 to 1883
Lewis H. Withey.....	1881 to 1889
Wm. H. Powers.....	1881 to 1890
Israel C. Smith.....	1881 to 1883
A. D. Rathbun.....	1883 to 1886
I. M. Weston.....	1883 to 1887
A. J. Rose.....	1883 to 1886
John Killeen.....	1886 to 1888
L. E. Hawkins.....	1886 to 1891
I. S. Dygert.....	1886 to 1888
John E. More.....	1887 to 1892

Adolph Leitell.....	1888 to 1893
Frederick Loettger .....	1889 to 1894
Ira C. Hatch.....	1890 to 1893
Charles H. Bender.....	1891 to 1896
Lewis H. Withey.....	1892 to 1901
S. G. Ketcham.....	1893 to 1895
William Judson .....	1893 to 1898
Lester J. Rindge.....	1894 to 1899
Wm. B. Weston.....	1895 to 1900
Stephen A. Sears.....	1896 to 1901
Charles A. Hauser.....	1898 to 1903
William H. Boyns.....	1899 to 1904
Dennis L. Campau.....	1900 to 1902
Charles A. Phelps.....	1901 to 1905
Philip Corrigan .....	1901 to 1902
David E. Uhl.....	1902 to 1905
Alvah W. Brown.....	1902 to 1905
Willard F. Keeney.....	appointed 1903
Sidney F. Stevens.....	appointed 1904
Charles H. Bender.....	appointed 1905
John S. Lawrence.....	appointed 1905

When the department was first organized the head was called the Chief of Police, but afterwards the name was changed to Superintendent of Police. The following have filled the position for the time indicated:

James L. Moran.....	1871 to 1878
Isaac Sigler .....	1878 to 1879
James L. Moran.....	1879 to 1880
Horace W. Davis.....	part of 1881
Van Epps Young.....	1881 to 1882
John Perry .....	1882 to 1886
I. C. Smith.....	1886 to 1889
Wm. H. Eastman.....	1889 to 1893
Harvey O. Carr.....	1893 to present time

The rules and procedure adopted by the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners at its first meeting in June, 1881, have continued with little change to the present time. The Board has five committees composed of two members each upon finance, property, men and discipline, rules and regulations, and house.

In its early history, as might be expected, there was some friction between the new Board and other executive officers of the city, but in time the lines of official duties and executive action became firmly fixed and thoroughly established. The independence of the department became so secure that for more than twenty years there has been little or no change in its methods.



With changes of political parties and city administration policies men have come and gone but modes and methods of business in the police department continue as established by the original Board.

The policy adopted by the first Board has given the department a national reputation for efficiency and freedom from scandal and corruption. It has been kept entirely aloof from political influences. Each member of the police force in the city stands upon his own merits and value as an officer. No man's religion, nationality, political or fraternal affiliations has any effect upon or consideration from the Board or officers of the department. Service in the department is open to any citizen of Grand Rapids who can meet the requirements. An application of the following form must be signed and filled out by an applicant for a position on the police force and endorsed by five citizens of Grand Rapids. To the Honorable Board of Police and Fire Commissioners of the City of Grand Rapids:

The undersigned, a citizen of the City of Grand Rapids, Michigan, deeming himself in every way qualified, does hereby most respectfully request that he be appointed to be a member of the Police Force of said City.

Grand Rapids, Mich., .....190..

N. B.—Questions to be fully answered by the applicant in his own handwriting.

In what year were you born, and where? .....

Are you a resident and voter in this city? .....

If born out of the United States, have you been naturalized, when and where? .....

Can you read and write English? .....

Attach to this application a specimen of your writing covering at least one page of note paper.

Have you ever been convicted of any crime? .....

Have you ever been engaged in Gambling, or selling liquor, if so, when and where? .....

How long have you resided in this city? .....

Where do you now reside, Street, Number and Ward? .....

Are you married or single? .....

What was your occupation during the past five years? State fully and give names and addresses of persons by whom you

have been employed during that time.....  
 Have you ever had deafness or asthma?.....  
 Have you ever had rheumatism?.....  
 Have you ever had fits?.....  
 Have you ever had piles, and how long since?.....  
 Have you ever been in the military or naval service of the United  
 States? .....  
 If so, have you been honorably discharged?.....  
 Have you ever been a policeman?.....  
 What is your height?.....  
 What is your present weight?.....  
 Have you paid, or promised to pay, or given any money or other  
 consideration, to any person, directly or indirectly, for any  
 aid or influence toward procuring your appointment as above  
 applied for? .....  
 State of Michigan, county of Kent, ss.

I.....being duly sworn, do depose and say, that the  
 answers made to the foregoing questions are true to the best of  
 my knowledge and belief. ....  
 Sworn and subscribed before me this.....day of.....190..

.....  
 Notary Public, Kent County, Mich.

Notice.—Any false statement, evasion or deception in answer-  
 ing the above questions will be considered sufficient ground for  
 dismissal from the department.

To the Honorable Board of Police and Fire Commissioners of the  
 City of Grand Rapids:

The undersigned, citizens of Grand Rapids, request your Hon-  
 orable Board to appoint.....to be a member  
 of the Police Force of said City, and we individually and each for  
 ourselves state and represent to your Honorable Board, that we  
 have known the said.....intimately and well for  
 the past two years, and we are qualified to speak intelligently in  
 relation to his character and habits, and state and represent that  
 the said.....is a man of good moral character,  
 correct and orderly in his deportment, and not in any respect a  
 violator of law or good order; that he is a man of sober and in-  
 dustrious habits; that he is not addicted to the habitual use of  
 intoxicating drinks or other hurtful excesses.

The undersigned do also further represent, that we have never

seen the said.....drunk, or known of his having been drunk, nor of his having been guilty of, or arrested for any criminal or disorderly conduct or act, and that we believe him to be a man of truth and integrity, of sound mind, good understanding, and of temper and manner fit to a Policeman.

We, the undersigned, do further represent and agree, that if requested by your Honorable Board, we will at any time appear at the office of your Board, and make affidavit to the truth of the foregoing representations.

Grand Rapids, Mich.,.....190..

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

N. B.—This petition is required to be signed by at least five citizens.

#### **Requirements.**

Comparatively few men can meet the requirements of the department. The physical examination is rigid and severe. Applicants must be at least five feet ten inches high; must have good health and a sound body with perfect hearing and vision. The age limit for entering the service is from twenty-one to thirty-five years. Many who pass the physical examination do not possess the mental temperament demanded by the department. A policeman must always keep his temper under absolute control. He must never become nervous or excited. While on duty he must be civil, courteous and dignified; even to friends and fellows he cannot be playful and facetious. In motion and manner he is the embodiment of law and order. A patrolman is supposed to be a walking encyclopedia of knowledge concerning all local matters, to answer all sorts of questions from all sorts of people on all sorts of topics, to assist the weak and the ignorant, the foolish and the vicious, to aid all needy persons, often without thanks or appreciation except the consciousness of duty well performed; at times to be the butt of ridicule and sarcasm without the privilege of talking back; and if occasion demands to give without a moment's hesitation blood and life for the civic good. Surely "A policeman's lot is not a happy one."

Each member must devote his whole time and entire attention

to the business of the department and while on duty must act with firmness and energy and refrain from violent, coarse or insolent language. At all times members of the department are required to abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors. A policeman must always be obedient to his superior officers. When he goes off duty he is required to make a written report of his doings and is obliged to keep a note book in which he must write the particulars of every case reported or arrest made. Policemen are required to drill and the best possible personal appearance is demanded of each man. The force is constantly kept to a high standard of military excellence. As far as possible members of the force are expected and encouraged to remain in the service and make it a life work. The rules and policy of the department have built up an efficient civil service.

When he goes off duty each man makes a written report of all acts done in official duty; these reports are indexed and filed so that at headquarters the whereabouts of each man on duty and all doings of the members of the department can be ascertained in short order. A wagon and an ambulance at headquarters with men in charge are in constant readiness for calls to duty. The police department sends a representative to all fires so that necessary police protection can be given.

#### **The Headquarters.**

In its early days the police headquarters were in the old Rathborne Block at the corner of Monroe and Ionia streets; in June, 1882, they were moved to the corner of Lyon and Campau streets, where they remained until 1892, when the present police building was completed at the corner of Crescent avenue and Ottawa street. The police building is well arranged for its purposes. In the basement on one side are kept the horses, patrol wagons and ambulances; on the other side are the cells. On the first floor are the offices, Superintendent's room, offices of the Police Court, Judge's room, Clerk's room and court room, Ladies' room, Witness room and Jury room. On the second floor are the Commissioners' room, Secretary's room, men's dormitory, men's waiting room, detectives' room and sleeping room. On the third floor, the drill room, Stenographer's room, Juvenile detention room, Matron's room and Janitor's room. The force is constantly

drilled in military tactics and especially in the use of the revolver and club.

In the Secretary's office is a complete record of every policeman in the service. His original application is always kept on file together with marks and remarks of all merits and demerits. A reprimand from the Board is a serious matter to any one in the service. Not only is it made a matter of record but the delinquent is called into the presence of the Board and given a lecture which impresses upon him the magnitude of his offense. The Board always has one or more members whose command of language can bring home a realization of the sins of omission and commission. The carpet of the Commissioners' office is not soft and easy to those called thereon for violation of the rules and failure of duty.

#### **The Bertillion System.**

The Bertillion system of identification of criminals has been in use by the police department of Grand Rapids since 1897, when the system was first extensively used in the United States. It is of French origin. The chief and important measurements are those of the head and hand. All scars and birthmarks are carefully noted. The department takes the measurements of all who are arrested that are suspected of belonging to the criminal class. If the department has no local data concerning the suspect his measurements are sent to the Central bureau of identification at Washington, where is kept a record of all criminals with a history. If the suspect has a record the return mail brings it with a complete history of the man's crimes, aliases and imprisonments. If any one is arrested by the local department and convicted of crime his measurements and description are taken and kept on file at headquarters and also sent to the Central bureau for future use. The system is now so extensively used that no criminal operates very long before his record is on file at the Central bureau and at the places where his crimes are committed. It is becoming world wide in its operations and has a wonderfully deterring effect upon crime. Grand Rapids was among the first cities to become a member of the American association, and has a high standing among other American cities and the secret service department of the federal government for its excellent work with the system.

### Police Beats.

There are 64 police beats in the city. The patrolmen are divided into four squads: The day watch squad reports at 7:30 in the morning and leaves the headquarters to go out on duty at 7:45 a. m. and continue until relieved by the dog watch squad at 4:00 in the afternoon. At present the day watch squad is composed of eleven men. The squad for the dog watch reports at headquarters at 3:15 p. m. and goes on duty at 3:45 p. m. and continue on duty until relieved by the night watch squad about 8:00 o'clock p. m. At present the dog watch squad is composed of 17 men. The night watch squad reports at headquarters at 7:15 p. m. and starts on duty at 7:45 p. m. and continues on duty until relieved by the dog watch at about 4:00 a. m. At present the night watch squad is composed of 26 men. There are some special outside beats for which the men report at 5:30 p. m. and go out at 6:00 p. m. and patrol until 2:00 a. m. There is a reserve squad of 10 men. The headquarters are always open with a telephone and telegraph operator on constant duty. The force has six detectives who do special work under direction of the Superintendent. As now organized the department has 119 members. June 19, 1885, the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners contracted with the Police Telephone and Signal Company for twenty signal stations and the necessary apparatus to operate a central office, in two circuits, for the sum of \$3,200. These were provided and put in use a few months later.

In connection with the beats is the patrol box system, which is one of the finest features of the department. There are fifty-two of these boxes, all of which have telephones connected with police headquarters. Each patrolman reports to headquarters at each end of his beat, and the exact time is there recorded by an operator. These reports are carefully saved and bound so that in after years, by referring to the records, it can be ascertained where any officer on duty was at a certain hour on a given date. In connection with the system is a two-horse wagon, with a man constantly in charge. The wagon attends all alarms from the patrol boxes and many calls by private telephone. It also attends all fires to give necessary police protection.

**The Cost.**

The growth and cost of the department are best illustrated by the fiscal exhibits of each year since the present organization of the board, which the following table shows:

Fiscal year ending	
1882, Sept. 14.....	\$ 23,911.00
1883, Sept. 15.....	29,725.79
1884, Sept. 11.....	34,847.13
1885, Sept. 15.....	36,796.57
1886, Sept. 15.....	44,965.97
1887, Sept. 15.....	48,851.54
1888, Sept. 15.....	56,861.37
1889, Sept. 15.....	58,433.03
1890, Sept. 15.....	65,737.98
1891, Sept. 15.....	68,717.10
1892, Sept. 15.....	85,440.71
1893, Sept. 15.....	85,613.11
1894, Sept. 15.....	87,056.67
1895, Sept. 15.....	101,880.99
1896, Aug. 1.....	97,971.32
1897, Aug. 1.....	98,070.39
1898, Aug. 1.....	90,146.07
1899, July 1.....	83,289.80
1900, July 1.....	85,494.11
1901, July 1.....	85,563.15
1902, July 1.....	86,814.47
1903, July 1.....	84,890.56
1904, July 1.....	84,790.96
1905, July 1.....	97,403.97

The first death in the department was that of Michael Murphy, who died February 10th, 1884. On August 22d, 1895, George Powers, a detective from the department, was shot dead in attempting to arrest some suspected train robbers on a G. R. & I. R. R. train at the Grand Trunk crossing in the city. The murderer escaped but is supposed to have been killed a few days afterwards at McBain in Missaukee County by a Deputy Sheriff of Wexford County while again resisting arrest and attempting to escape.

The department has a Relief and Benefit Association organized in 1886 for assisting disabled members. Its officers are as follows: President, Carl A. Atwood; Vice-President, Nicholas J.

Van Dine; Secretary, Wm. H. Steed; Treasurer, Simon F. Steckle. Trustees, Theodore A. Spannagel, Millard F. Davis, Burley Bailey, Charles R. Hunt, Wm. Tatroe.

### The Pay.

For the first year after the department was organized in 1871 a policeman received fifty dollars a month and the chief one thousand dollars a year; the next year the chief received fifteen hundred dollars a year and policemen eight hundred dollars a year each. The first year the policemen numbered eight, the second year they were increased to ten, the third year to fourteen, and the fourth year to sixteen, at which number they remained for many years. The expenses of the department for its first year were \$7,295.26. The salary list of the department is now as follows:

Per Year. Per Mo. 1st Year.	Per Mo. 2d Year.	Per Day 1st Year. 3d Year.	Per Day 2d Year.	Per Day 3d Year.	Per Mo.
Superintendent .....		\$2,300 00	.....	.....	.....
Captain .....		1,195 00	.....	.....	.....
Lieutenant .....		1,158 00	.....	.....	.....
Sergeants .....			\$2 30	\$2 50	\$2 75
Detectives .....			2 25	2 40	2 74
Truant Officer .....			1 98	2 10	2 25
Court Officer .....			1 98	2 10	2 25
Patrol Wagon Conductors .....			1 98	2 10	2 25
Turnkeys .....			1 98	2 10	2 25
Patrolmen .....			1 98	2 10	2 25
Office Clerk (day) .....		808 25	.....	.....	.....
Office Clerk (night) .....		717 00	.....	.....	.....
Drivers .....			1 98	2 10	2 25
Acting Poundmaster .....		720 00	.....	.....	.....
Signal Operators .....			.....	.....	\$25 00
Janitor .....			2 00	.....	\$30 00
Assistant Janitor .....			1 75	.....	\$40 00
Matron .....		660 00	.....	.....	.....

From and after July 1st, 1905, all old time patrolmen who have served five continuous years receive \$2.35 per day.

### Policemen.

The following are the names of those who have been members of the department for more than one year:

Superintendent .....	Harvey O. Carr.....	Indiana .....	Feb. 24, 1893.....	11
Captain .....	John Johnson.....	England .....	Sept. 1, 1879.....	24
Lieutenant .....	Dennis Millaley.....	Canada .....	March 6, 1884.....	20
First Sergeant .....	Timothy Madigan.....	Michigan .....	March 5, 1885.....	19
Second Sergeant .....	Thos. Howell.....	Michigan .....	Sept. 10, 1885.....	18
Third Sergeant .....	James Whelan.....	Michigan .....	Oct. 30, 1891.....	12
Detective .....	Cornelius Gast.....	Holland .....	May 12, 1872.....	31
Detective .....	Wm. Youngs.....	Michigan .....	Feb. 1, 1895.....	9
Detective .....	A. N. McDonald.....	Canada .....	Nov. 13, 1890.....	13
Detective .....	Peter Viergiver.....	Michigan .....	Oct. 30, 1891.....	12



Court Officer.....	Thos. C. Price.....	New York.....	Feb. 1, 1883.....	21
Truant Officer.....	Frank B. Fee.....	New York.....	Feb. 26, 1885.....	19
Wagon Conductor.....	John Schobey.....	New York.....	Dec. 16, 1882.....	22
Wagon Conductor.....	Geo. W. Spring.....	Michigan.....	May 13, 1887.....	16
Wagon Conductor.....	N. J. Van Dine.....	New York.....	Aug. 13, 1885.....	18
Special Officer.....	James Mooney.....	Ireland.....	Feb. 19, 1892.....	12
Special Officer.....	Warren Sturgis.....	Canada.....	Aug. 6, 1881.....	22
Turnkey.....	Geo. W. Traxler.....	New York.....	May 17, 1882.....	20
Turnkey.....	Patrick Doherty.....	Ireland.....	July 26, 1883.....	20
Patrolman.....	Geo. H. Wells.....	Penn.....	Sept. 28, 1887.....	16
Patrolman.....	Alfred Hemstreet.....	New York.....	Dec. 27, 1888.....	15
Patrolman.....	M. H. Connor.....	Canada.....	June 28, 1890.....	14
Patrolman.....	Emil Scheneman.....	Germany.....	Oct. 10, 1890.....	13
Patrolman.....	Wm. H. Steed.....	Penn.....	March 26, 1891.....	13
Patrolman.....	S. F. Steckle.....	Michigan.....	Jan. 8, 1892.....	12
Patrolman.....	Wm. Tatroe.....	Michigan.....	April 22, 1892.....	12
Patrolman.....	Chas. R. Hunt.....	New York.....	Nov. 4, 1892.....	11
Patrolman.....	C. A. Atwood.....	Michigan.....	Nov. 4, 1892.....	11
Patrolman.....	L. A. Smith.....	Michigan.....	Dec. 22, 1892.....	11
Patrolman.....	James Reardon.....	Michigan.....	Dec. 11, 1892.....	11
Patrolman.....	B. T. Dean.....	New York.....	June 30, 1893.....	10
Patrolman.....	John J. Byrne.....	Michigan.....	June 9, 1894.....	9
Patrolman.....	Geo. A. Haessig.....	Missouri.....	Oct. 26, 1894.....	9
Patrolman.....	Theo. Spannagel.....	Ohio.....	Oct. 26, 1894.....	9
Patrolman.....	Millard Davis.....	New York.....	Oct. 26, 1894.....	9
Patrolman.....	C. O. Boyd.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 26, 1894.....	9
Patrolman.....	Wm. A. Breanan.....	New York.....	June 21, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	M. Fitzpatrick.....	Michigan.....	June 21, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	Stephen Hale.....	Michigan.....	June 21, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	Henry Slater.....	Canada.....	June 21, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	Geo. B. Wells.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 25, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	John Halloran.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 25, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	Chas. Berry.....	New Jersey.....	Oct. 25, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	John Minogue.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 25, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	A. F. Steward.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 25, 1895.....	8
Patrolman.....	John M. Kelley.....	Michigan.....	July 3, 1896.....	7
Patrolman.....	Jos. Morrissey.....	Michigan.....	April 2, 1897.....	7
Patrolman.....	T. D. Blinston.....	Michigan.....	April 2, 1897.....	7
Patrolman.....	John O'Leary.....	Ohio.....	April 2, 1897.....	7
Patrolman.....	Frank J. Doran.....	Michigan.....	Dec. 24, 1897.....	6
Patrolman.....	John Mackie.....	Scotland.....	Dec. 24, 1897.....	6
Patrolman.....	J. J. Quick.....	Michigan.....	Nov. 21, 1898.....	5
Patrolman.....	Chas. J. B. Larson.....	Michigan.....	Nov. 21, 1898.....	5
Patrolman.....	Jesse Hammond.....	Indiana.....	Nov. 21, 1898.....	5
Patrolman.....	P. W. Porter.....	Penn.....	Nov. 21, 1898.....	5
Patrolman.....	A. J. Pohl.....	Michigan.....	Nov. 21, 1898.....	5
Patrolman.....	Burley Bailey.....	Michigan.....	May 18, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	Samuel Slater.....	Canada.....	Sept. 27, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	Michael Lynch.....	Ireland.....	Sept. 27, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	Garret Doyle.....	Michigan.....	Sept. 27, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	John A. Sandy.....	Michigan.....	Sept. 27, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	Wm. J. Pretzel.....	Germany.....	Sept. 27, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	Louis L. Launiere.....	Michigan.....	Sept. 27, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	Wm. F. Bauman.....	Michigan.....	Sept. 27, 1901.....	2
Patrolman.....	Paul Vanderstolp.....	Illinois.....	Sept. 26, 1902.....	1
Patrolman.....	M. M. Barker.....	Iowa.....	Sept. 26, 1902.....	1
Patrolman.....	J. F. Hilton.....	Wisconsin.....	Sept. 26, 1902.....	1
Patrolman.....	John Morrissey.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 17, 1902.....	1
Patrolman.....	Adrian DeYoung.....	Michigan.....	March 20, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	Geo. E. Fike.....	Michigan.....	March 20, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	Jos. Rumstrom.....	Sweden.....	April 10, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	Geo. C. Nelson.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	Wm. M. Drew.....	Illinois.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	Chas. Whitman.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	Benj. Havens.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	R. G. Howe.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	Adelbert Ryon.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	W. J. Lennon.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	B. J. Patterson.....	Michigan.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	T. E. McInerney.....	Ireland.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	J. J. Lemke.....	Germany.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	J. Wm. Dunn.....	Iowa.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	W. P. Leech.....	Ireland.....	Oct. 9, 1903.....	1
Patrolman.....	B. F. Reynolds.....	Michigan.....	March 27, 1904.....	1
Patrolman.....	John G. Johnson.....	Ireland.....	March 27, 1904.....	1
Patrolman.....	Cornelius Mannl.....	Michigan.....	March 29, 1904.....	1
Patrolman.....	F. D. Laraway.....	Michigan.....	March 29, 1904.....	1
Patrolman.....	W. C. Davidson.....	Michigan.....	March 30, 1904.....	1
Patrolman.....	Geo. H. Budde.....	Michigan.....	April 2, 1904.....	1

Patrolman .....	Daniel Nugent.....	Michigan .....	Sept. 5, 1885.....	18
Patrolman .....	Chas. Kinska.....	Michigan .....	Feb. 6, 1899.....	5
Office Clerk.....	Fred W. Webber.....	Michigan .....	Feb. 14, 1900.....	4
Office Clerk.....	Milo B. Gilman.....	Michigan .....	Sept. 16, 1888.....	18
Poundmaster .....	Patrick Malone.....	Michigan .....	Sept. 26, 1880.....	23
Driver No. 1.....	John Conlon.....	Canada .....	Sept. 30, 1898.....	5
Driver No. 1.....	Thos. Maher.....	Ireland .....	Sept. 30, 1898.....	5
Driver No. 2.....	Stephen Bird.....	Michigan .....	July 23, 1895.....	8
Driver No. 2.....	Fred Hatch.....	Michigan .....	April 1, 1901.....	3
Signal Operator.....	Roy Lawyer.....	Michigan .....	March 27, 1904.....	
Signal Operator.....	Ray Conlon .....	Michigan .....	June 9, 1903.....	
Signal Operator.....	Ernest Schill.....	Michigan .....	June 12, 1891.....	12
Janitor .....	Peter Esch.....	Michigan .....	April 1, 1901.....	3
Asst. Janitor .....	Michael McCormick.....	Michigan .....	April 23, 1897.....	7
Matron .....	Charlotte Collier.....	England .....		

The Board of Police and Fire Commissioners as constituted in July, 1905, was as follows: President, Alvah W. Brown; Secretary, B. F. McReynolds.

Property Committee—Charles H. Bender, Willard F. Keeney.

Men and Discipline Committee—Willard F. Keeney, Sidney F. Stevens.

Finance Committee—Sidney F. Stevens, John S. Lawrence.

Rules Committee—John S. Lawrence, Charles H. Bender.

House Committee—John S. Lawrence, Charles H. Bender.

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

By act of Congress December 24th, 1863, the federal judicial Western District of Michigan was created, of which Grand Rapids became and remains the center. Soon after Michigan Senators and Congressmen began making efforts for an appropriation to construct a Government building at Grand Rapids. In 1873 a commission of nine members was appointed to select a site composed of S. L. Withey, C. C. Comstock, T. D. Gilbert, and Henry Fralick of Kent County, L. V. Harris of Ottawa, L. V. Townsend of Ionia, L. G. Mason of Muskegon, H. G. Wells of Kalamazoo and A. P. Alexander of Van Buren. The commission advertised for sites and prices, and received ten sealed proposals which were opened May 2, 1873, and were as follows: Corner of Monroe and Ottawa streets, where now is the Aldrich block, \$55,000; corner of Fountain and Ionia streets, where now is the Auditorium, \$27,500; corner of Pearl and Ottawa streets where now is the Waters Block, \$50,000; corner of Lyon and Ottawa, part of the present city hall site, \$39,250; corner of the same streets, where now is the Norris block, \$27,000; corner of Ottawa street and Crescent avenue part of the present court house site, \$15,000; corner of Division and East Fulton streets, where now is the Cody block, \$25,000, and three pieces of property at a distance from the business center of the city at nominal prices. The commission recommended the corner of Fountain and Ionia streets, the northeast corner of Lyon and Ottawa streets, and the corner of Pearl and Ottawa streets.

The Treasury Department rejected the report and ordered an examination by the supervising architect of the department. Upon his recommendation condemnation proceedings were commenced by the United States Attorney on February 13th, 1874, against the block of land bounded by Ionia, Pearl, North Division and Lyon streets, and now constituting the site of the Government building, by filing a petition in the Circuit Court of the United States for the Western District of Michigan. All persons having any interest in any lands of the block were made defendants. The following is the title of the case:

## The United States

vs

Samuel C. Eason, Lavina C. Eason, Uriah M. Short, City of Grand Rapids, Myron H. Norton, Louisa M. Petts, Amos Rathbone, Leonard A. Merrill, Isaiah J. Whitfield, Susan A. More, Trustees of Westminster Presbyterian Church and Society of Grand Rapids, Frances E. Bonnell, Mary Chubb, Daniel F. Tower, Jacob C. More, John Crissman, Lavina E. Worts, George Kendall, Alonzo Platt, Elizabeth W. Powers, Erastus Spaulding and Ransom E. Wood.

On February 27th, 1874, Leonard A. Merrill, one of the defendants, appeared in Court and demanded a jury to assess the value of the property required by the Government. On March 2nd, 1874, the following jury was selected: Henry Grinnell, Darwin D. Cody, Julius Berkey, John T. Elliot, William D. Roberts, William H. Ramsey, Henry Jewett, Ezra T. Nelson, George A. Allen, James M. Barnett, William Mormon and Arthur R. Antisdel.

The hearing was at once had, proofs were submitted, and the jury viewed the premises. Arguments of counsel and the charge of Judge Withey followed and on March 6th, 1874 the jury allowed \$68,064.85 to the owners of the premises as follows:

Amos Rathbone .....	\$ 6,100.00
Louisa M. Petts .....	5,969.00
Mary Chubb .....	7,021.10
Westminster Presbyterian Church.....	14,075.00
Frances E. Bonnell.....	2,200.00
Leonard A. Merrill .....	6,349.00
Isaiah J. Whitfield .....	4,660.00
Susan A. More .....	8,805.00
Samuel C. Eaton .....	3,156.00
Uriah M. Short .....	2,163.75
Daniel F. Tower .....	7,575.00
	<hr/>
	\$68,064.85

In April following the Treasury Department decided to build upon the site indicated and in June Congress appropriated \$70,000 to purchase the site. On August 6th, 1874, an order of confirmation of the jury findings was made and soon after the money was deposited with the Court and paid to the proper parties. The usual conveyances were made and recorded and the Government

of the United States became a land owner in the city of whose area it had held the entire title less than fifty years before.

Preparations were then made for building. Excavations for the foundations were finished in the spring of 1876. A little more than three years elapsed before the completion of the building. John R. Stewart was the Superintendent of Construction. The mason work of the walls was done by John S. Farr & Co., the plumbing and roofing by Shriver, Weatherly & Co., and the painting by A. H. Fowle. Nelson, Matter & Co. furnished the curtains. The joiner work was done by parties from Baltimore. The tile flooring was procured from Cincinnati, and the door trimmings and gas fixtures from Philadelphia. Smith & Co., of Chicago were the plasterers. The grounds were handsomely graded, which required a great deal of filling, the site being partially in a ravine, sunken and swampy, where had formerly been the outflow from a mudhole pond that stood between there and Fountain street. The entire block was encircled by a handsome pavement of imported stone, with inside beveled stone coping, on which was placed an iron fence. The aggregate of appropriations made by Congress for this structure up to the fall of 1878, including that made for the site, was \$212,000.

The Government Building was finished and occupied by the Internal Revenue and United States Court officers September 1, 1879.

The first term of court in the new building was commenced October 7th, 1879. On November 15, 1879 the postoffice was moved to the new structure.

The present dimensions of the Government Building are 126 feet north and south by 63 feet east and west. It faces the west and stands 38 feet from Ionia street and is 86 feet from North Division street; it is 60 feet from Pearl street, and the same distance from Lyon street. In the basement are the heating apparatus, and store rooms. The first floor is entirely occupied by the postoffice. On the second floor are the offices of the Clerks of the Federal Courts, the United States District Attorneys, the District Judge, the United States Marshal, the Custom House office, and the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue.

On the third floor are the Court and Jury rooms of the Federal Courts, and offices for clerks of the railway service and the United States pension agent.

The finish of the interior is fine and substantial and conforms to the style and character of so massive a building. Several varieties of American woods are represented in the casings and doors, butternut mouldings being a prominent feature. Desks, tables, chairs, and other furniture are largely of black walnut and oak. The tile flooring is of tasty pattern. The door trimmings are of solid bronze, and the gas fixtures of handsome and ornamental designs in burnished copper and nickel. In architectural design the building is similar to many others erected by the Government throughout the country. The surrounding grounds are well kept, and, at current prices of real estate are now worth much more than the superstructure.

At present all departments of the Government service in the Government building are very much crowded, and it is only a question of a short time when the needs of the government will require a new building, or extensive additions to the present building. Since the present building was completed the Government business in most departments has doubled and quadrupled.

#### **The Postoffice.**

Up to November, 1879, the Grand Rapids Postoffice was an itinerant institution. In the beginning the fur traders and missionaries at the Rapids depended upon Indian scouts for their communication by correspondence with the civilized world. The first postoffice was at the mission station on the west bank of the river, established in 1832. It stood a few rods south of Bridge street, and a postmaster was appointed in December of that year. After settlers began to come and the inconvenience of bringing letters across the river in canoes began to be felt, Joel Guild acted as deputy or clerk, and in 1834 the reception and delivery of mail matter was conducted at his house, where now is the National City Bank. In his books of that year appear numerous accounts with settlers here and up and down the river; such as charges of postage on letters at rates from  $12\frac{1}{2}$  to 25 cents, and quarterly postage on newspapers, from  $12\frac{1}{2}$  to  $18\frac{3}{4}$  cents. The quarter beginning July 1, 1834, shows a list of thirteen newspapers taken by residents of the valley. Of course these were all eastern papers, as none were then published in this part of Michigan. In 1836 the office was removed to the east side of the river, and was kept at the house of the postmaster, Darius Winsor, at the corner of Ottawa

and Fountain streets, where now is the New Aldrich Block. The contents of the mail bag could be accommodated in Mr. Winsor's capacious waistcoat pocket, which the people sometimes facetiously called his postoffice. He soon removed the office to a point on Monroe street nearly opposite Market. The next move was in 1838, to a little building on the west side of Prospect Hill at Lyon street. A rough wagon road wound its way nearly up to the office from the west, while the approach from the east was by a foot path over the top of the hill. Its subsequent moves were: In 1841 to Canal street, just south of Lyon; in 1844, to the south side of Monroe street above Market; in 1846, to the east corner of Canal and Pearl streets, where now is the Lovett block; in 1849, from the corner a little north on the east side of Canal street; in 1853, two doors further north; in 1857, to Exchange Place or alley (Arcade), midway between Pearl and Lyon streets; in 1861, to the McReynolds Block, corner of Lyon and the Arcade; in 1868 to the Eagle Building, north side of Lyon, between Canal and Kent; and thence, November 15, 1879, to the new Government Building. From the small sack carried by the Indian scout on his pony in 1833 to the car loads of pouches and bags now coming and going almost hourly, the growth of the postal business here has kept pace with that of the community and its social and business interests.

#### **The Postmasters.**

The names of Postmasters here, and the dates of their appointment, as shown by the Bond Division of the Postoffice Department are as follows: Grand Rapids, Leonard Slater, appointed December 22, 1833. Name of the office changed to Kent, September 1, 1836, and Darius Winsor appointed. Alfred D. Rathbone (at Kent), July 11, 1838. James M. Nelson (at Kent), September 4, 1841. February 6, 1844, name of the office changed back to Grand Rapids, and James M. Nelson continued as Postmaster. Truman H. Lyon, April 9, 1845. Ralph W. Cole, March 26, 1849. Truman H. Lyon, March 25, 1853 and re-appointed February 21, 1856. Harvey P. Yale, September 29, 1857. Noyes L. Avery, March 27, 1861. Charles H. Taylor, August 24, 1866. Solomon O. Kingsbury, March 11, 1867. Aaron B. Turner, April 9, 1869. Peter R. L. Peirce, March 19, 1877. (Mr. Peirce died November 12, 1878, and Martin L. Sweet, one of the trustees, had

charge of the office until a successor was appointed.) James Gallup, December 18, 1878. Herman N. Moore, December 20, 1882, James Blair, September 29, 1886. George G. Briggs, April 2, 1890. Thomas F. Carroll, April 3, 1894. Loomis K. Bishop June 1, 1898.

The office became a "Presidential" postoffice February 21, 1856, with a salary at \$1,000 a year. The salary of the postmaster is now (1905) \$3,800.

For several years prior to 1837 the only regular mail into Grand Rapids came from the direction of Detroit, and was rather irregular in the route traveled and time required for its passage. It was first brought by scouts or runners, sometimes on foot, sometimes with a horse or pony, but very seldom in a carriage of any kind. The average frequency of mail arrivals was less than one a week. A little later mails were brought on horseback by way of Gull Prairie or Kalamazoo as often as once a week. There was little occasion at that time for mails from any other direction than south and east. In 1837 contracts were made for bringing the mail from Battle Creek by stage twice a week; the stipulated time being twelve hours, with a provision allowing for delays by stress of weather, under which it not infrequently amounted to thirty-six hours. The stage of that period was generally an old fashioned, cumbersome, lumber wagon, often carrying passengers as well as mail. It was not until August, 1846, that a daily mail from the east by way of Battle Creek was established, and this for two or three years was sometimes nearly two days in getting through. In 1841, mail arrivals were once a week from Kalamazoo, Howell, Grand Haven and Austerlitz (the latter place being in Plainfield Township, this county), and once in two weeks from Jackson. In the fall of that year mail service from Kalamazoo twice a week was established. In 1842, routes were established from Grand Rapids via Lake Alone (Green Lake) to Middleville, and by Allen's Corners, Lake Alone and Barnes' Mill to Kalamazoo, and also from Grandville to Port Sheldon. In 1843 there were three stages a week from Battle Creek, but the local newspaper complained that there were only two mails a week. In 1844 the route between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven was changed from the south to the north side of the river. In 1846 there were lettings for mail service once a week to Lyons, to Ionia, to Grand Haven (two routes, one on each side of the river), to Kalamazoo, to Paw Paw, to Muskegon Mills in Newaygo coun-



ty, to Lincoln's Mills in Montcalm county, and three times a week to Battle Creek. New Postal routes were established in September, 1850, to Lyons, to Ionia, to Muskegon and to Mackinac. From this time mail service was established on new routes nearly every year, in various directions from the city, until the advent of railroads. There were daily mails during the summer season both up and down the river, and throughout the year several from the southward. The railroads as fast as they came furnished new and increased facilities, each of them bringing mails at least twice a day.

From the pocket office of Postmaster Winsor to the present postoffice in this city, the growth of our postal accommodations is worthy of study. It was said that his vest pocket generally held the entire letter contents of any incoming mail, and it is not recorded that there was a single lock-box or drawer, or even a case of pigeon-holes in the postoffice of the early days. Now, these appliances fill the largest apartment in the Government Building, at one door of which comes and goes a steady file of mail bags, and at the other an equally constant procession of citizen customers, while the business gives employment to a small army of clerks and carriers. In the first quarter of 1868 the delivery of letters averaged about 1,200 daily, and in the office, which was then in the Eagle Building, were 2,134 boxes and 530 drawers, of which about two-thirds were in use. At the end of 1872 the proportions were changed. There were then 1,896 pigeon holes and 2,880 drawers. The introduction of the carrier system greatly decreased the demand for office boxes.

#### **The City Delivery.**

The free delivery system by carriers was established September 1, 1873, with the following force: John Sonke, Raymond McGowan, C. W. Bignell, C. L. Shattuck and J. F. Lamoreaux. The salary of the letter carriers at that time was \$600, to be increased \$100 at the end of the first year and \$150 more at the end of the second year.

#### **The Present City Carriers are**

Frank H. Barber, Palmer S. Barker, Herbert L. Barrett, Wm. H. Bement, Louis L. Beneker, Dennis T. Berry, Willard S. Berry, John Bogert, Bernard Brouwer, Daniel F. Clark, Horace B.

Clark, George E. Cook, Jas. A. Cronin, John C. De Oude, James De Young, John A. De Young, Charles W. Donlan, Andrew E. Eckhoff, Clare M. Findlay, Frank J. Fisher, Martin Gilbertson, Edward Glowczynski, Thomas P. Gordon, John C. Hansen, Samuel Harting, Henry Heering, Mel S. Heering, Louis F. Heiden, John M. Hendricks, Stephen F. Hilton, Wm. A. Hollister, John F. Holmes, John W. Jones, Frank L. Kampfschulte, Edwin L. Keef, Alexander McDonald, Christopher McNally, Fletcher H. Mason, Wm. L. Messer, Wm. W. Meyers, Frank N. Miller, Robert Milne, Michael M. Minogue, Gaius L. Mitchell, Wm. Mitchell, Alpha E. Mosley, Cornelius Nieuwenhuise, Clifford R. Olewine, Hewitt M. Patterson, Peter Rastaussen, Edward R. Rasch, Peter Rasmussen, Edmund J. Riordan, John A. Risendorph, Samuel J. Roach, Benjamin A. Schoonbeek, Wm. R. Seybold, Ernest J. Sigler, Willis E. Signor, Charles G. Singer, Elmer E. Slocum, John Sonke, Jacob Stander, Hans C. Svevad, Eugene M. Townsend, Fred M. Uteley, Harry Van der Veen, Ernest G. Van Leeuwen, Herman Warrell, Frank P. Whitman, Albert J. Williams, Clarence O. Wing, Rocke R. Wood, Royal P. Woodworth, Asa B. Youngblood.

#### **John Sonke is the Veteran Carrier of Grand Rapids.**

When the first force of letter carriers was organized in Grand Rapids and citizens ceased to make daily pilgrimages to the old postoffice on Lyon street, John Sonke entered the service of the government as postman. More than thirty years have passed since then, but Mr. Sonke, although past the age of 70 still shoulders his pouch of mail each day and traverses a route arranged especially for him. He now wears upon his sleeve two silver stars which Uncle Sam awards to carriers who have served him faithfully for 30 years.

"I was No. 1 of the first five carriers," said Mr. Sonke recently, "and to the best of my belief I am now the only one left of that little group alive.

"Julius Caesar entered at the same time, September 1, 1873, but he went in as a substitute, while I entered as a regular. The postmaster was A. B. Turner, and the postoffice was in the Eagle block on Lyon street. Mr. Milmine was superintendent of carriers, and Martin Melis was the postmaster's deputy.

"My first route lay in the First ward and part of the Second.

Commencing on Pearl street at the bridge, I walked out to Jefferson and over to Wealthy avenue and then back to the office. That was my morning trip. In the afternoon I went down Grandville avenue to Fifth avenue. In those days, you know, there were no elevators, and I had to climb the stairs through all the buildings delivering mail. In the G. R. & I. building I had to deliver the letters to each office. They were not all sent down in a bunch as they are now. Every day for 15 years I covered that territory, then I was transferred to a route in the northern part of the city. Then I got old and the mail became heavy so I was given what is called the factory route. It lies at the D. & M. junction.

"I am working only four hours a day now. In the morning I go to the Wealthy avenue car barns and collect the mail put in the boxes on the last trips. Then I go to the office, put up my mail and leave for the junction. After my return I collect mail from the Lyon street cars until 10:30 o'clock. At that time my day's work is finished. I am 71 years old and was born in the Netherlands. My home since the war has been in Grand Rapids.

"When I first began to carry mail Grand Rapids had a population of perhaps 30,000. The routes in those days were much longer than they are now for the city was not so thickly populated. Today no man could cover the route that was covered by me in '73.

"I well remember some of the old business places that I used to pass on my rounds each day. There was the old National Biscuit company's place where the Boston Store now stands on Monroe street. A. Bradford's bakery was next to it. The old Rathburn house stood on the corner of Market and Monroe streets. It was not like the hotels we see now in Grand Rapids. A. R. Antisdel, I believe, was proprietor in those days. Then there was the old Eagle hotel at the corner of Louis and Market streets. It is still there, but no one would know the hotel of 30 years ago as that of today. I think Mr. Johnston ran the Eagle then, as he does now. Arthur Wood's carriage shop stood at the corner of Ferry and Market streets, Smith's opera house was not at the corner of Louis and Market streets, but nearer Monroe. W. S. Gunn ran a wholesale hardware store at the corner of Monroe and Market streets. The building was then plastered over on the outside. At the corner of Ottawa and Monroe streets the old Catholic

church stood. From the church I used to carry mail down to the old Union depot, and from there along the rest of my route. Things are all changed now, but I never tire of looking back into the past and seeing things as they were when the first five letter carriers left the old office to deliver mail throughout the city."

### Carrier Stations.

**Station A**—Henry G. Kalmbach, Superintendent. A. J. Rasch, Assistant. 19 West Bridge street. Office hours, 7 a. m. to 8. p. m. Carriers Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 22, 23, 33, 38, 42, 48, 49, 60, 62, and Rural Carriers Nos. 2, 5, 7, 13 and 14 are assigned this station.

**Station B**—George Robson, Clerk in charge. John Van Domelen, Assistant. 611 Coit avenue. Office hours, 7 a. m. to 8. p. m. Carriers Nos. 21, 31, 47, and Rural Carriers Nos. 4, 6 and 9. Full postoffice service rendered.

**Station C**—Wm. B. Knapp, Clerk in charge. D. D. Gardiner, Assistant. Corner East and Wealthy avenues. Office hours, 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. Carriers Nos. 28, 32, 34, 44, 46 and 65. Full postoffice service rendered.

**Station D**—John G. Steketee, Clerk in charge. A. A. Weston, Assistant. Corner South Division and Fifth avenues. Office hours 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. Carriers Nos. 15, 27, 37, 45, 50, 51, 55, 58, 66. Full postoffice service rendered.

At all these stations international money orders are issued. They are open Sundays, 11 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.

### Stations Without Carriers.

Station	Clerk in Charge.	Telephone	Location
E	Wm. H. Quigley.....	C-1412-1R	Cor. S.Div. & Burton
†F	Mrs. Kath. Z. Morgan.	B-1754M	Near Reed's Lake
G	D. W. Elferdink.....	C-5908	343 E. Bridge St.
H	Bert M. Heth.....	C-1127	913 E. Division St.
†Soldiers'	Mrs. Alice Keyes.....	C-2572	Nr. Soldiers' Home.
Home	E. A. Richards.....	B-1114 M	766 E. Fulton St.
*1	O. T. Morgan .....	C-2360	156 W. Fulton St.
2	C. N. Woodworth.....	C-5566	565 Cherry St.
3	C. E. Kellogg.....	C-2144	693 Madison Ave.
4	Henry Stadt....	C-2545	319 W. Leonard St.
*5	Walter K. Schmidt....	C-5109	84 Canal St.
6	Emil Riechel.....	C-5959	416 W. Bridge St.

7	Zoe E. Welch.....	C-3614	.....	Mich. Trust Bldg.
8	C. E. Hessey.....	C-4131	.....	180 Butterworth Av.
9	Frank L. Bean.....	C-2726	.....	36 W. Leonard St.
10	John D. Muir.....	B-151	C-5151	Cr. Monroe & Ottawa
11	Cornelius Stryker....	C-1124	.....	Cor. Granville & 4th.
*12				

†Deliver registered mail from stations.

All stations carry supplies of stamps and stamped paper, issue and pay domestic money orders. Those marked with asterisk (\*) issue international money orders; all are qualified to register letters, etc.

Office hours are 7 a. m. to 8 p. m. except Sundays.

Rural Routes Nos. 1, 8, 10 and 11 start from Station E.

Rural Routes Nos. 3 and 12 start from Station F.

#### Rural Free Delivery Service.

**Route No. 1**—Commencing at Station “E,” Burton avenue and South Division street; thence south to railroad crossing South Division street, 1 m; west to Roger’s corner, 1 m; south to northeast corner section 23, Wyoming township, 1 m; east to township line, 1 m; south on township line to Pennell’s corner, 1 m; west to Smith’s corner, 1 m; south to cemetery,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; east to township line, 1 m; north to school house, District No. 8, Wyoming township,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; east, 1 m; south to Froost’s corner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to township line, 1 m; south to Gilbert’s corner,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; west to Fisher Station,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east retrace,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; south on town line to Kirtland’s corner,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; west to Boss’ corner, 1 m; north,  $\frac{1}{8}$  m; west to Sherman’s corner, 1 m; north to creek,  $\frac{7}{8}$  m; east to Smith’s corner,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  m; north to the northeast corner section 23, Wyoming township, 1 m; west to I. R. Church’s corner, 1 m; north to the northeast corner section 15, Wyoming township, 1 m; west to Bowman’s corner, 1 m; north to railroad crossing  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; north and northeast to railroad,  $\frac{5}{8}$  m; east on Burton avenue to Station “E,” 2 m. Length of route  $24\frac{3}{8}$  m; area covered, 17 square m; number of houses on route, 160; population served, 735.

**Route No. 2**—Commencing at Station “A,” 19 West Bridge street, thence west, crossing county line, to Rapp’s corners,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  m; north to Cross corner, 1 m; northwest to Talmadge,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; retrace to Cross corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; north to Millard’s corner, 1 m; east to King’s corner,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; north to George Fuller’s corner, 1 m;

east to county line,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; south to Carr's residence,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; north retrace,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; east to Walker avenue,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  m; southeast on Walker avenue to Station "A,"  $4\frac{1}{4}$  m. Length of route,  $22\frac{1}{2}$  m; area covered, 19 square m; number of houses en route, 110; population served, 510.

**Route No. 3**—Commencing at Station "F," Reed's Lake, thence southeast and south to School District No. 11, Paris township,  $1\frac{7}{8}$  m; east to W. Richard's corner, 2 m; south to Wyma's corner, 1 m; east to Teeple's corner, 1 m; south to 4 township corners, 4 m; west to Gaines' township line, 1 m; north to W. E. Slater's corner, 1 m; east to northeast corner section 31, Cascade township, 2 m; north to School District No. 8 Cascade township, 3 m; west to Teeple's corner, 1 m; north,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; northwest to Richard's corner,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; north to MacNamara's corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; west and northwest to Station "F,"  $2\frac{3}{4}$  m. Length of route,  $23\frac{1}{8}$  m; area covered, 18 square m; number of houses on route, 100; population served, 460.

**Route No. 4**—Commencing at Station "B," 611 North Coit avenue, thence north on Coit avenue to Knapp avenue,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; east on Knapp avenue to the D. Bird corner,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m; north to J. Bremel's corner, 1 m; east, 1 m; north to H. Braman's corner, 1 m; east to Hill's corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; south, 1 m; east  $\frac{5}{8}$  m; northeast to River road,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  m; south on River road to Boylan's corner, 1 m; southwest and south to W. P. Mattice's corner,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; west to W. Barnard's residence,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; east retrace,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; south to J. Tierney's corner, 1 m; west to the C. Lawrence corner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; north to Jos. Lodden's corner, 1 m; west to O. L. Goss' corner, 1 m; south to C. Bender's corner, 1 m; west on East Leonard street to Ryn Court,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  m; north on Ryn Court to Spencer avenue,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; west on Spencer avenue to Station "B," 1 m. Length of route,  $20\frac{5}{8}$  m; area covered, 18 square m; number of houses on route, 100; population served, 430.

**Route No. 5**—Commencing at Station "A," 19 West Bridge street, thence southwest to city limits,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m; southwest to School District No. 2, 2 m; southwest to Berger's corner,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to county line,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; south to Peck's corner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; north to Pelton's corner,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; northwest, angling to Connolly's corner,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  m; north to Kimble's corners,  $3\frac{3}{8}$  m; west to Bronner's residence,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; east, crossing county line, to Mohler's corner,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m; south to Hogadon's corner, 1 m; east to Walker avenue, 3 m;

southeast on Walker avenue to Station "A," 2 m. Length of route, 22 m; area covered, 18 square m; number of houses on route, 100; population served, 500.

**Route No. 6**—Commencing at Station "B," 611 North Coit avenue, thence north on Coit avenue to Soldiers' Home,  $2\frac{3}{8}$  m; thence west, crossing river, and northwest and northeast on river road to Sullivan's,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  m; northwest and west to E. Boughner's corner,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  m; south to D. Heath's corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; west to A. Bohlen's corner,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m; north to Hill's corner, 1 m; west to Hillebrand's corner, 1 m; north to Ruthardt's corner, 1 m; east to Mrs. Tome's corner,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; south,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east to township line,  $\frac{5}{8}$  m; south and southeast to North Park,  $4\frac{1}{4}$  m; south on Canal Gravel Road to Quimby street,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m; east to Station "B,"  $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Length of route,  $22\frac{5}{8}$  m; area covered, 16 square m; number of houses on route, 100; population served, 500.

**Route No. 7**—Commencing at Station "A," 19 West Bridge street, thence north to Alpine avenue,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m; north on Alpine avenue to A. Bohlen's corner, 4 m; west to Griffin's corner, 4 m; north to Geo. Knowlton's corner, 1 m; east to E. A. Wheeler's corner,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m; south to F. Josts' corner,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; east,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; south to township line,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; east, northeast and southeast to "Mill Creek,"  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m; south on River road to Station "A,"  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m. Length of route,  $24\frac{1}{4}$  m; area covered, 18 square m; number of houses on route, 104; population served, 480.

**Route No. 8**—Commencing at Station "E," Burton avenue and Division street, thence south on town line to northwest corner Section 19, Paris township, 2 m; east to railroad crossing, 1 m; south to Gaines township line, 3 m; west to Graves' corner, 1 m; south to G. F. Moore's corner, 1 m; west, crossing railroad, to Harris' corner, 1 m; north to E. Brown's corner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to J. W. Sullivan's corner, 1 m; north to school house and township line,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east on township line, 1 m; north to N. Boss' corner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to Conway's corner, 1 m; north to Sherman's corner,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to T. R. Moore's corner, 1 m; north to northeast corner Section 9, Wyoming township, 4 m; northeast and east to city limits,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  m; south,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east on Burton avenue to Station "E," 1 m. Length of route,  $22\frac{3}{4}$  m; area covered, 17 square m; number of houses on route, 140; population served, 650.

**Route No. 9**—Commencing at Station "B," 611 North Coit avenue, thence northeast on Plainfield avenue to W. D. Hawkins'

residence,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  m; southwest retrace  $\frac{1}{2}$  and east  $1\frac{3}{8}$ ,  $1\frac{7}{8}$  m; north to Davis' corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; east and southeast to Hawthorne's residence,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; northwest and west retrace to Davis' corner,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; north,  $\frac{1}{8}$  m; west and southwest to township line,  $5\frac{1}{8}$  m; east on township line to near Dean Lake, 2 m; south to J. Bremel's corner, 1 m; west to W. Green's corner,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  m; south to Knapp avenue, 1 m; west to Plainfield avenue,  $\frac{7}{8}$  m; southwest on Plainfield avenue to Station "B,"  $\frac{3}{4}$  m. Length of route,  $22\frac{3}{4}$  m; area covered, 17 square m; number of houses on route, 110; population served, 510.

**Route No. 10**—Commencing at Station "E," Burton avenue and South Division street, thence south on Division street road,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east, 1 m; south to railroad crossing,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; east to Rathbun's corner, 1 m; south to Crosby Post Office, 1 m; west to Allen's corner, 1 m; south to Mildenhush's corner, 1 m; east to C. Blodgett's corner, 1 m; south to township line, 1 m; east on township line to near railroad,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m; north to L. P. Graves' corner, 1 m; west to C. Blodgett's corner,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m; north to Crosby's Post Office, 1 m; east to C. Bowen's corner, 1 m; north to H. Newhouse's corner,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to Granger's corner, 1 m; north to Allen's corners,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to the center of the north line of Section 18, Paris township,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; north on Madison avenue to Burton avenue, 1 m; west on Burton avenue,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m. Length of route,  $21\frac{1}{2}$  m; area covered, 16 square m; number of houses on route, 108; population served, 500.

**Route No. 11**—Commencing at Station "E," Burton avenue and South Division street, thence east on Burton avenue to School District No. 11, Paris township, 3 m; south to school house, District No. 5, Paris township, 1 m; east to school house, District No. 8, Paris township, 2 m; south,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to Van Sledwright's corner, 1 m; south,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east to East Paris station, 1 m; south to A. C. Teeple's corner, 1 m; west to Longfield's residence,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east to Patterson's residence, 1 m; west retrace,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; south to Wm. E. Slater's corner, 1 m; west to W. R. Smith's corner,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; north to A. Deming's corner, 1 m; east to school house, District No. 9, Paris township,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; north to Van Sledwright's corner,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to H. Newhouse's corner, 1 m; north to school house, District No. 5, Paris township,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to J. A. Stoddard's corner, 1 m; northwest and north to Burton avenue,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  m; west on Burton avenue to Station "E," 1 m. Length of route,



22 $\frac{3}{4}$  m; area covered, 16 square m; number of houses on route, 112; population served, 520.

**Route No. 12**—Commencing at Station "F," Reed's Lake, thence northwest on Lake avenue road to Robinson avenue, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  m; east and southeast on Robinson avenue and Cascade road to Cascade township line, 5 $\frac{1}{8}$  m; south to C. Kotsier's corner, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m; west to T. Sullivan's corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; northwest and north to railroad, 3 $\frac{1}{8}$  m; west on Ada road to the east line of section 28, Grand Rapids township, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  m; north,  $\frac{5}{8}$  m; east to Frawley's corner, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  m; north to J. E. Power's corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; west, angling to school house on Leonard street, 2 $\frac{5}{8}$  m; south to Clark and Brown's corner, 1 m; west, 1 m; south to Lake avenue, 1 m; southeast on Lake avenue to Station "F," 1 m. Length of route, 25 m; area covered, 18 square m; number of houses on route, 106; population served, 490.

**Route No. 13**—Commencing at Station "A," 19 West Bridge street, thence southwest and west on Butterworth avenue to J. H. Ball's corner, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  m; north to L. Ball's residence,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; south retrace,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; north to the center of the south line Section 29, Walker township, 2 m; north to O'Brien's residence,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; south retrace,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; west to county line, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m; south  $\frac{1}{4}$  and north  $\frac{1}{8}$ ,  $\frac{3}{8}$  m; west to Wm. Cumming's corner,  $\frac{3}{4}$  m; north to F. Coughlin's corner, 1 m; east to Murray's corner,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; north to school house, 1 m; west to Wm. Courtwright's residence and county line, 1 m; east retrace to school house, 1 m; north to F. Brown's residence, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m; south retrace to railroad,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; east to R. Smith's corners, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m; southeast and east to Walker avenue, 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  m; south to Fourth street, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$  m; east on Fourth street to Station "A," 2 m. Length of route, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$  m; area covered, 18 square m; number of houses on route, 104; population served, 480.

**Route No. 14**—Commencing at Station "A," 19 West Bridge street, thence northwest and north on Alpine avenue to railroad, 2 $\frac{1}{4}$  m; northwest along railroad, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$  m; north to township line, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  m; west to J. Walker's corner, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  m; northwest to L. Turner's corner, 4 $\frac{3}{8}$  m; east to M. Dole's corner, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  m; south to Dunback's corner, 2 m; east,  $\frac{1}{4}$  m; south, angling to township line, 2 $\frac{1}{8}$  m; east,  $\frac{1}{2}$  m; southeast to Balard's corner, 1 $\frac{1}{8}$  m; east to Alpine avenue, 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  m; south on Alpine avenue to Station "A," 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  m. Length of route, 24 $\frac{3}{4}$  m; area covered, 24 square m; number of houses on route, 104; population served, 480.

**Kent County, Michigan, Rural Free Delivery Service.**

The following is a list of the offices from which the service emanates:

Grand Rapids—Routes Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14.

Belmont—Routes Nos. 15 and 16.

Alpine—Route No. 17.

Sparta—Routes Nos. 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Kent City—Routes Nos. 22, 23 and 24.

Rockford—Routes Nos. 25, 26, 27 and 28.

Cedar Springs—Routes Nos. 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34.

Sand Lake—Routes Nos. 35, 36, 37 and 38.

Harvard—Routes No. 39 and 40.

Lincoln Lake—Route No. 41.

Ada—Routes No. 42, 43, 44 and 45.

Lowell—Routes Nos. 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51 and 52.

McCords—Route No. 53.

Alto—Routes Nos. 54, 55 and 56.

Caledonia—Routes Nos. 57, 58 and 59.

Dutton—Route No. 60.

Ross—Route No. 61.

Byron Center—Routes Nos. 62, 63 and 64.

Grandville—Routes Nos. 65 and 66.

**Some of the Things Letter Carriers Must and Must Not Do.**

Carriers are required to be prompt in making deliveries, to be courteous in their intercourse with the public, to deliver no mail except to the persons addressed, or to their authorized agents (which includes servants, clerks, housekeepers, janitors, and others to whom such deliveries are recognized as valid by the addressee); will not accept verbal orders for change of address, and no written order will be accepted by the Post Office unless signed by the party interested or authorized agent; to receive all pre-paid letters, postal cards and small packages handed them for mailing while on their routes, and to collect the postage due on any mail matter delivered by them. Carriers cannot accept ordinary postage stamps in payment of postage due except at their risk. Carriers are not permitted to deliver any matter which has not passed through the Post Office, to exhibit or give information

concerning any mail matter to others than those addressed, to engage in any private business (on their own account or for others) during their hours of official duty, to offer for sale or to deliver (except as mail matter) tickets or other articles, to issue New Year's or other addresses or cards, to solicit gifts of money or goods, to borrow money on their routes, or contract debts which they are unable to pay, or deliver mail matter at unoccupied premises or on the street (except to persons known by them to be authorized to receive it.) Carriers are not required to deliver packages the weight or bulk of which would tend to delay the delivery of letters or other mail matter. When such packages are received for delivery, notice is sent to the addressees to send or call for them at the Post Office. First-class mail will have preference in delivery over all other classes of mail.

#### **Executive Division.**

Loomis K. Bishop, Postmaster; Charles H. Hall, Assistant.

Office hours, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Requests for additions to service and complaints affecting same, not disposed of in other divisions, are referred to this division.

#### **Cashier's Division.**

Franklin D. Eddy, Chief Clerk and Cashier Wm. E. Eddy, Clerk.

#### **Wholesale Stamp Department.**

All orders for stamps of one denomination from the public to the amount of \$100 received and filled.

Orders for special request envelopes in lots of 500 or over received and filled.

Accounts against Post Office are rendered in duplicate to this division.

#### **Free Delivery Division.**

Office hours, 7 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Fred B. Hunter, Superintendent; Isaac J. Lemon, Assistant; John S. Simpson, Foreman City Division.

Sunday delivery of mail, 11 a. m. to 12:30 p. m.

This division has charge of all mail matter for city delivery. Any irregularity or delay in delivery is reported to its Superintendent.

**Mailing Division.**

Office hours, 8:30 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Glenn W. Holmes, Superintendent of Mails.

This division has charge of classification, distribution and dispatch of outgoing mails.

**Money Order Division.**

Office hours, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Aaron E. Davis, Superintendent; Edith L. Turner, Clerk.

Orders issued at stamp window from 5 to 8 p. m.

**Registry Division.**

Office hours, 7 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Louis L. Launiere, Superintendent.

All valuable matter should be registered; all inquiries relative to registered matter or special delivery service are addressed to this division.

**Special Messenger Service.**

Louis L. Launiere, Superintendent.

Special delivery letters must bear the special stamp (10c value) in addition to regular postage on letter or package, and will be delivered to any point within city limits when mailed at General Post Office only, between the hours of 7:00 a. m. and 11:00 p. m. daily, except Sundays, when letters must be received prior to 12:30 p. m. to insure delivery on that day.

**Stamp Division.**

Office hours, 7 a. m. to 8 p. m.

Fredreka J. Klyn, Abbie L. Weller, Clerks.

Money Orders issued from stamp window from 5 p. m. to 8 p. m.

**Board of Civil Service Examiners.**

Charles H. Hall, Secretary. Office, Assistant Postmaster.

Examinations for positions of Post Office clerk and carrier are held in November of each year, on the first Wednesday after November 15th.

Blank applications and full information as to examinations are obtained of the Secretary.

Limitations of age are 18 and 45 years of age, and male applicants must be at least five feet four inches in height, and of 125 pounds weight.

Examinations for the departmental, railway mail, customs, internal revenue and Indian services are held under the direction of the United States civil service commission, but information relative thereto and blank applications can be obtained from the local secretary.

#### **Free Delivery Division—City Service.**

Mail is delivered in Grand Rapids—

1. By letter carriers from general Post Office and Stations A, B, C and D.
2. By special delivery messengers from general Post Office only, when addressed to points within carrier limits, and properly stamped.
3. From general delivery window at Post Office, and from stations when addressed care of same.
4. Through lock boxes at general Post Office and Stations.

##### **1. Delivery by Carriers.**

Seven deliveries are made daily (except Sundays), from general Post Office to business districts, at 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 10:30 a. m., and 1:00, 2:15, 4:30 p. m.

Two deliveries are made daily (except Sunday) to residence districts.

At 6:30 a. m. a delivery is made by mounted carrier to all principal factories, mills and shops in city, in addition to other regular deliveries.

The wholesale and commission house districts of Ottawa and Ionia streets are given an early delivery, 5:30 and 6:30 a. m.; and also a noon delivery at 1:00 p. m., in addition to other business deliveries.

The principal hotels are given an additional delivery at 8:00 p. m.

Collections are made throughout business section of city by mounted carrier every hour from 5:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m. on

week days. On Sundays collections are made from boxes on Canal and Monroe streets, The Pantlind, The Morton, Eagle, Livingston, Cody, Clarendon and Bridge Street Hotels at 9:30 and 10:30 a. m.; 3 and 7:30 p. m., and all street letter boxes within a radius of one mile from main office, which are not situated on street car lines, receive one collection on Sunday at 2:30 p. m.

Deliveries are made from Station A at 7:30 and 10:30 a. m.; 2:30 and 4:30 p. m. Stations B, C and D, 7:30 a. m., 2:30 p. m.

Carriers collect mail from street cars at Campau Square from 6:00 a. m. to 9:45 p. m. Mail dispatched to main office every 30 minutes.

The Bridge and Lyon street line is collected passing general Post Office from 6:00 a. m. to 10:00 p. m.

The letter boxes on cars in the Hall street, Scribner street and Wealthy avenue car barns and repair shops are collected daily (except Sunday) at 6 a. m. and 5 p. m. in order to take care of any mail taken into the barns on damaged cars.

Carriers are requested to deliver mail matter at the offices or premises occupied by the persons addressed in all cases where such deliveries are demanded; but persons occupying offices or stores on upper floors (especially in business buildings where elevators are not used) will greatly facilitate the work of the carriers by providing lock boxes or other suitable means for the delivery of their mail matter on the first floor. This is, of course, not compulsory, but it is obvious that the general adoption of such a system will expedite the receipt of mail by all persons located on any carrier's route.

Carriers are required to deliver no mail matter except to the persons addressed or to their authorized agents (which include servants, clerks, housekeepers, janitors and others to whom such deliveries are recognized as valid by the addressee), to receive all prepaid letters, postal cards and small packages handed them for mailing while on their routes, and to collect the postage due on any mail matter delivered by them.

The schedule of carriers' deliveries is necessarily a fixed one, and the trips are so arranged as to secure the closest possible connection with mail arrivals (both inland and local) and with the collections from the street letter boxes. The routes are so served as to suit as far as possible, the convenience of the majority of those residing or doing business thereon; but simultaneous

delivery to all is not possible. On routes in business districts it sometimes happens that a few persons report that the first delivery reaches their premises before they are opened for business, but that they are unwilling to wait for the second delivery. In these cases the only remedy is to provide a box attached to the outer door and connected with an opening therein through which mail may be delivered by carriers on the first trip.

**Pension Letters.**—Carriers are not permitted to deliver pension letters to any one but the addressee without a written order from party addressed.

Every person calling at Post Office for pension letters must be identified before same can be delivered.

## 2. Special Delivery.

Letters bearing special stamp, in addition to regular postage, are delivered from general Post Office daily from 7 a. m. to 11 p. m. On Sundays, letters must be mailed before 12:30 p. m. to insure delivery.

On December 18th, 1899, mail boxes were first used in the street cars of Grand Rapids. It was the first experiment of the Postoffice Department in any large city of the country for using street cars in carrying the mail. From the first it was a success. All mail is now transferred between the railroads and the Post Office by street mail cars especially equipped for that purpose. As a result transfers are made in quicker time than by old methods.

Again by having mail boxes on the street cars factories and business men in outlying districts can send their mail down town and have it go out on the first trains possible after it is written. Again people can write letters at their homes and place them upon the nearest street car; as a result they go out of town at the first opportunity.

## Internal Revenue Office.

The United States Internal Revenue office is on the second floor of the Government Building. The Internal Revenue service for this District was organized during the last months of 1862 and the early months of 1863, during the days of the Civil War. Its headquarters have always been in this city. It was organized under the direction of Aaron B. Turner, who was the first collector and

whose term of office began September 2, 1862. The following have been collectors since the district was organized:

**Collectors of Internal Revenue.**

1862-1866—Aaron B. Turner.	1885-1889—George N. Davis.
1866-1867—Robert P. Sinclair.	1889-1893—John Steketee.
1867—Thompson Sinclair.	1893-1897—Israel C. Smith.
1867-1882—Sluman S. Bailey.	1897—Samuel M. Lemon.
1882-1885—Charles W. Watkins.	

**Internal Revenue Receipts, Fourth District of Michigan, Office at Grand Rapids—1863 to 1904, Inclusive.**

1863 .....	\$ 31,513.00	1884 .....	170,283.95
1864 .....	64,856.59	1885 .....	171,690.96
1865 .....	136,597.63	1886 .....	192,111.35
1866 .....	216,088.29	1887 .....	211,025.17
1867 .....	190,662.18	1888 .....	207,511.22
1868 .....	197,188.80	1889 .....	210,356.44
1869 .....	180,738.11	1890 .....	212,561.36
1870 .....	166,505.69	1891 .....	208,806.42
1871 .....	116,810.48	1892 .....	190,678.26
1872 .....	114,785.34	1893 .....	194,628.19
1873 .....	94,569.34	1894 .....	178,593.89
1874 .....	90,644.87	1895 .....	208,450.00
1875 .....	97,651.76	1896 .....	218,106.02
1876 .....	108,977.90	1897 .....	193,452.28
1877 .....	95,223.32	1898 .....	231,524.76
1878 .....	98,822.73	1899 .....	707,585.99
1879 .....	111,128.68	1900 .....	1,050,587.65
1880 .....	131,769.28	1901 .....	1,034,495.56
1881 .....	137,251.82	1902 .....	889,141.96
1882 .....	164,576.96	1903 .....	668,462.17
1883 .....	169,912.55	1904 .....	728,561.28

The office force as now constituted (1905) is as follows: Collector, Samuel M. Lemon; Chief Deputy, William B. Bostock; Deputies, Anna B. Slaght, Peter A. DeWitt; Division Deputies, C. C. Phillips, Roy C. Lyle, John R. McDonald, Alva L. Coulter.

**Custom House.**

In 1888 Grand Rapids was made a Port of Entry. The Custom House office is on the second floor of the Government Building.



Surveyors of Customs have been as follows: 1888-90, Andrew F. Schafer, 1890-94, Rezen A. Maynard; 1894-98, Andrew Fyfe; 1898-1906, James A. Coye, 1906 Sheridan F. Master.

The imports and duties collected by the government at Grand Rapids are indicated by the following table:

1889	.....	\$14,215.33
1890	.....	16,701.55
1	.....	22,982.10
2	.....	27,172.00
3	.....	50,487.23
4	.....	29,540.70
5	.....	19,022.86
6	.....	15,589.22
7	.....	21,182.81
8	.....	27,399.26
9	.....	85,974.43
1900	.....	65,309.04
1	.....	64,556.55
2	.....	61,789.81
3	.....	93,022.95
4	.....	92,999.30

The office is now constituted (1905) as follows:

Surveyor of Customs, James A. Coye; Special Deputy Surveyor, Ernest A. Rose; Deputy Surveyor, Willis I. Herron.

The bonded warehouse is at the corner of Fulton and Commerce streets.

#### **United States Court.**

Originally there was only one Federal Court in Michigan, and this court, located at Detroit, for many years discharged all United States judicial functions. By an act of Congress, Dec. 24, 1863, the State was divided into the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan and Grand Rapids became the judicial residence for the newly created district. In this city court was first convened in accordance with said statute on May 18 of the next year. The bulk of business soon increased so materially on the Northern Peninsula, that by an act of Congress, June 19, 1878, the Western District was subdivided into the Northern and Southern Divisions, so-called; Grand Rapids continuing to be the seat of the Southern Division, while the Northern Division headquarters are at Marquette. Judges are appointed for life or

during good behavior, the salary attached thereto is \$5,000 per annum, and the position is one of great dignity and trust. The following officers have served in this court:

**U. S. Circuit Judges**—Halmer E. Emmons of Detroit, appointed Jan. 17, 1870; John Baxter of Knoxville, Tenn., appointed Dec. 13, 1877; Howell E. Jackson of Nashville, Tenn., appointed April 12, 1886; William H. Taft of Cincinnati, Ohio, appointed March 17, 1892; Horace H. Lurton of Nashville, Tenn., March 27, 1893; Henry F. Severens of Kalamazoo, Michigan, March 16, 1900; John K. Richards of Cincinnati, Ohio, February 25, 1903; William R. Day of Canton, Ohio, February 28, 1899.

**U. S. District Judges**—Solomon L. Withey of Grand Rapids, appointed March 11, 1863; Henry F. Severens of Kalamazoo, appointed May 25, 1886; George P. Wandy, appointed March 16, 1900.

**U. S. Attorneys**—Frederick O. Rogers, appointed March, 1863; A. D. Griswold, appointed March, 1865; A. T. McReynolds, appointed September, 1866; A. D. Griswold, appointed March, 1867; John H. Standish, appointed April, 1869; reappointed March, 1873; Marsden C. Burch, appointed April, 1877; reappointed 1881; John W. Stone, appointed May, 1882; G. Chase Godwin, appointed August, 1886; Lewis G. Palmer, appointed January, 1890; John Power, appointed February 6, 1894; George G. Covell, appointed February 15, 1898, reappointed February 15, 1902. The office force of the United States Attorney's office as now constituted, are: George G. Covell, District Attorney; Walter I. Lillie, Assistant United States Attorney, and Ella M. Backus, Clerk.

**U. S. Marshals**—Osmond Tower, appointed March, 1863; Wm. B. Thomas, appointed August, 1866; James Henry, appointed March, 1867, reappointed 1871; John Parker, appointed March, 1873, reappointed 1879; James Monroe, appointed January, 1881, reappointed 1885; David R. Waters, appointed February, 1886; James R. Clark, appointed January, 1890; Charles R. Pratt, appointed February 6, 1894; A. Oren Wheeler, appointed February 14, 1898; Frank W. Wait, appointed January 19, 1903. The office force as constituted in 1905 was: Frank W. Wait, Marshal; Edward O'Donnell, Chief Deputy Marshal, and William L. Phillips, Deputy Marshal.

**U. S. Clerks**—Lewis Porter, appointed May, 1863; Isaac H. Parrish, appointed June, 1865; Chester B. Hinsdill, appointed

October, 1875; Henry M. Hinsdill, appointed October, 1878; Charles L. Fitch, appointed February, 1887.

Owing to increase of business in the courts, a Clerk was provided for each the Circuit and District Courts. Chester B. Hinsdill was the first Clerk devoting his entire time to the District Court, which commenced when Henry M. Hinsdill became Circuit Clerk. John McQuewan was appointed in January, 1886, and Charles J. Potter was appointed January 2, 1901.

The Master in Chancery for the United States Courts is John S. Lawrence.

The Special Examiners of the United States Pension Bureau has his office on the third floor of the Government Building. For 1905 the Special Examiner was Grant Sims.

### **Kent County Court House.**

The seat of Justice for Kent County had a checkered and wandering career before it settled on its present site. July 31st, 1830, the Territorial Legislature of Michigan created the County of Kent and on November 8, 1833, three Commissioners, appointed by the Governor, James Kingsley, S. V. R. Trowbridge and Charles Lanman designated the Public Square or Fulton street Park as a site for the Court House. In 1838 the new county built a Court House and Jail on the Court House Square.

It was a two-story frame building, 30x40 feet, facing the west with a cupola over which was a gilt ball. Its cost was about \$3,000.00. On the evening of July 12th, 1844, it was destroyed by fire. The Board of Supervisors at once had constructed a temporary one-story building with a single room at a cost of about \$300.00, which was used as a meeting place for the Board of Supervisors and for holding the Circuit Court until 1852 when the Board of Supervisors and the Circuit Court moved to a hall on West Bridge street. From 1852 until 1876 the Circuit Court and the Board of Supervisors moved from place to place as temporary quarters could be secured, and during that period nearly every hall and large room in town was occupied at different times by the Board, or the Court, or both. In 1876 the county rented rooms in the Leppig Block on Lyon street next to the arcade and used them as a meeting place for the Board and for holding court for five years, when rooms in the

Norris Block at the corner of Lyon and Ottawa streets were rented, and occupied until the present Court House was completed.

After the Court House was burned in 1844 until late in the year 1860 the Register of Deeds, the Judge of Probate, the County Clerk, the County Treasurer and other county officials kept their offices wherever were their places of private business, or wherever desk room could be obtained. January 23rd, 1860, the clerk's office and the office of the Register of Deeds were in the Taylor and Barns Block on the site of the present McReynolds Block, on Canal street, between Pearl and Lyon streets, when the block was burned and nearly all the county records were destroyed. Soon after the county purchased the northeast corner of Lyon and Kent streets at a cost of \$1,000.00 and erected thereon a small brick building at a cost of about \$1,000.00 in which were kept the offices of the Clerk, Register of Deeds, Treasurer, Judge of Probate, and much of the time the Superintendent of the Poor until they were moved to the present Court House in 1892.

In 1850 an act passed the legislature whereby commissioners were appointed to establish again a seat of Justice for Kent County and commissioners were appointed by the governor to locate a site, which was accordingly done but the established site was never accepted by the Board of Supervisors.

After 1850 until 1887 there was a constant conflict in the Board of Supervisors concerning a Court House. Attempts were made each year to sell or donate pieces of land in various parts of the town to the county for a Court House site, and there were repeated efforts to rebuild a Court House on the Court House Square but a majority of the Board could never agree long enough at any time to consummate a sale or inaugurate a policy.

In 1852 the city of Grand Rapids assumed control of the Court House Square and commenced to use it as a public park and such use has continued to the present time. In January, 1881, the Prosecuting Attorney under the direction of the Board of Supervisors was ordered to institute legal proceedings to obtain possession of the Court House Square in order that a Court House might be erected thereon. The county attempted to obtain possession by enclosing the premises with a fence. The fence was completed the 8th day of October, but before the end of the month was taken away by the City Marshal under authority of the Common Council. The matter was at once taken into the courts, con-

tested by eminent counsel, and extensive litigation resulted. Final hearing was had before Judge Parrish of the Superior Court in September, 1885, who gave his decision for the county. An appeal was taken to the Supreme Court and in April, 1886, the decision of Judge Parrish was reversed by the Supreme Court, and the title of the city in the Court House Square was confirmed. It is interesting to note that the decision was reversed by a divided court; two Judges of the Supreme Court decided for the city and one for the county and one did not sit. Had the absent Judge been present and decided for the county, the decision of Judge Parrish would have been sustained, and the Kent County Court House would now stand in Fulton Street Park.

After the county was defeated in its contention for the Court House Square, or Fulton Street Park, the Board of Supervisors resumed strife for a new Court House site. Many sites were offered for sale and some were tendered as donations. Contentions and bickerings continued for more than a year when on October 26th, 1887, Mr. John T. Gould, then Supervisor of Algoma township, but now a resident of this city, offered the following resolution which was adopted by twenty-five yeas to ten nays. Resolved, by the Board of Supervisors in regular session assembled that lots 122, 123, 116, 117, 109, 108 of the north half of lot 103, and the north half of lot 102 Kent Plat (so called), in the city of Grand Rapids, be and the same are hereby designated and fixed upon as a site upon which to erect and maintain a Court House; yeas twenty-five; nays ten. Mr. Gould then offered another resolution as follows: Whereas lots 122, 123, 116, 117, 109, 108 and the north half of lot 103 and the north half of lot 102, Kent Plat, City of Grand Rapids, were determined and fixed upon as a Court House site by the Board of Supervisors, and whereas the owners of the property have offered to sell and convey the same for county purposes for and in consideration of the sum of \$32,000. Now therefore be it resolved that the proposition to sell the property aforesaid be and the same is hereby accepted and that said property be purchased under the proposition so made. It was adopted by the following; yeas thirty-one; nays four.

After a family quarrel of forty years duration Kent County had purchased a piece of land for a home. The site then selected, where the Court House now stands is 220 feet on Crescent Avenue and 150 feet on Ottawa and Kent streets.

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors a resolution was passed on January 19th, 1888, submitting to the voters at the spring election the matter of issuing bonds for \$150,000 to build a Court House on the recently purchased site. The question of a loan of \$150,000 for building a Court House was voted upon at the spring election, April 2nd, 1888, and in the county the vote was 11,488 for the loan and 3,120 against.

The county having voted for a loan to build the Court House the Board of Supervisors at its meeting on May 2nd, 1888, on motion of Robert B. Loomis of the second ward of the city voted to have a standing committee to be called the Court House Building Committee which should have in charge the building of the new Court House.

The first year the committee consisted of Robert B. Loomis, Jacob W. Walker, Nathaniel Rice, Sherman T. Colson, and William D. Frost. During the first year Mr. Colson was secretary. The next year Mr. John T. Gould and Mr. James Hill took the places of Messrs. Rice and Colson. Charles Woodward was appointed Superintendent of the Construction.

After organizing the Court House Building Committee by circular letters invited architects to compete for furnishing plans and specifications for the new Court House. At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors in July following the plans and specifications of Sidney J. Osgood of Grand Rapids were adopted. Thereafter the committee advertised for bids and on October 4th, 1888, the contract for building the new Court House was awarded to the Western Construction Company of Detroit, the building to be completed by January 1st, 1891.

On July 23rd, 1888, the Court House Building Committee reported to the Board of Supervisors that the site was cleared of buildings, and on November the 1st and 2nd, 1888, the Committee, contractors and architects met and staked out the lines for the building.

About the middle of November, 1888, the contractors commenced work on the foundation for the building. On January 15th, 1889, the Court House bonds were sold to S. A. Kean & Co., of Chicago for \$157,727.00.

On July 4th, 1889, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of Michigan of which body W. Irving Babcock was then Grand

Master, Col. George G. Briggs was President of the day, Isaac F. Lamoreaux was Marshal, Hon. M. C. Burch was Orator, and Rev. Kerr B. Tupper was Chaplain. The Masonic bodies of the city took part in the exercises.

The Order of Exercises at the laying of the corner stone was as follows: The column formed on Lyon street, marched through Canal, Monroe, Ottawa to the site in the following order: Body of Police, Band, Innes Rifles, Supervisors, County Officials, Ex-Supervisors, President of the Day, Vice-President, Common Council, City Officials, Masonic Lodges, Grand Lodge.

The Order of Exercises at the site was as follows: Music by Band, Prayer by Rev. Kerr B. Tupper, music by Schubert Club, Address by Judge M. C. Burch, Music by Schubert Club, Music by Band, National Anthem sung by the Schubert Club, assisted by the Band and the crowd.

The laying of the corner stone with its accompanying exercises cost the County of Kent \$515.40.

Among the sub-contractors who did work on the Court House were the following: Weatherly & Pulte, plumbing and heating; Sproul & McGurrian, mantels, grates and hearths; Streeter & Company of Chicago, iron work; Goodall Brothers of Peru Ind., stone work and tile floors; J. D. Doland of Grand Rapids, brick work; H. E. Doran & John Ackerman of Grand Rapids, carpenter work and mason work; A. B. Knowlson, wood work; DeGraaf, Vrieling Co., inside blinds; A. Huth & Son, white front and stone walks and coping; Asbestine Co., cement floors; Ketchum Furniture Co., furniture; Kerf & Co., of Milwaukee, vault fixtures; Fred J. Blymeir, painting; Reed & Co., and W. C. Dewey, glass windows; Gunn Hardware Co., window and door trimmings.

The Western Construction Company did not complete its contract on January 1st, 1891. There was considerable trouble between the Court House Building Committee and the Company as work progressed; there were also rumors that the Company was financially embarrassed and finally on March 26th, 1891, the Company sent the Committee a telegram refusing to continue the work and practically repudiating its contract.

On April 27th, 1891, the Board of Supervisors, acting under legal advice declared the contract forfeited, and the Court House Building Committee was ordered to complete the building. The

work continued for a year and on July 4th, 1892, the building was formally opened with appropriate dedicatory exercises.

Committee on Dedication of the Court House was as follows: R. B. Loomis, L. E. Paige, James Hill, W. D. Frost, S. T. Colson, M. J. Ulrich, Chas. E. Hogadone, J. T. Gould, F. E. Skeels, Cornelius L. Harvey, F. H. Gill, E. B. Fisher, E. F. Uhl, G. G. Briggs.

July 4th, 1892, the county officials were at home all day to the public in the new Court House, which inside and out was beautifully decorated with flags, bunting, plants and flowers. At two o'clock a procession was formed at the old county building at the corner of Kent and Lyon streets and led by a band marched through Lyon, Canal, Monroe and Ottawa streets to the Crescent avenue entrance to the Court House and thence to the Western Circuit Court room where the dedicatory exercises were had. Chairman A. W. Weeks of the Board of Supervisors called the assembly to order and the exercises were opened by a song from the Schubert double quartette, followed by prayer from Rev. J. H. Maynard, chaplain of the day. Architect Sidney J. Osgood then gave a brief description of the building. Robert D. Loomis, chairman of the building committee, gave a history of the building and its cost. Chairman Weeks accepted the finished structure from the hands of the builders. Hon. Roger W. Butterfield made the address of the day, followed by remarks from Justice R. M. Montgomery of the State Supreme Court, Hon. T. D. Gilbert, Hon. Geo. W. Thayer and Judge Allen C. Adsit. The audience led by the Schubert quartette then sang America and the exercises closed with a benediction by the Rt. Rev. George D. Gillespie. After more than forty years wandering the County of Kent had an official home.

The cost of the Court House was as follows:

Paid on original contract.....	\$170,869.11
Paid for extras outside of contract.....	19,495.01
Stone sidewalks, platforms and copings.....	13,059.49
Mantels and grates.....	791.75
Gas fixtures .....	2,040.65
Elevator and connections .....	1,725.00
Vault fixtures .....	4,658.97
Furniture .....	11,310.00
Inside blinds .....	2,485.00
Grading and sodding .....	448.49
Varnishing and oiling floors .....	315.00



Extras .....	1,052.51
Site .....	35,500.00
Architect's fees .....	8,000.00
Superintendent of Construction .....	5,860.00
Total .....	<u>\$277,610.98</u>

After the Western Construction repudiated its contract and practically become insolvent, an effort was made by litigation to collect damages from its officers and bondsmen, but the cases were never brought to trial.

After waiting for so many years Kent County has a handsome and convenient Court House. It faces Crescent avenue. In the basement is the heating apparatus, store rooms, offices for the Superintendent of the Poor, and a good sized audience room, used for general assembly purposes. On the ground floor are the offices of the Judge of Probate, the Register of Deeds, the County Treasurer, and the County Clerk. On the second floor are the two Circuit Court rooms, offices for the Judges, Sheriff's office, jury rooms, offices for the Circuit Court Commissioners, and offices for the Prosecuting Attorneys. On the third floor are the Supervisors' room and the committee rooms, offices for the Court stenographers, County Surveyor and School Commissioners.

The Court House meets the present requirements of Kent County, and doubtless will do so for many years to come.

### **City Hall.**

The several departments of the city government from the incorporation of the city in 1850 until the completion of the city hall in 1888 were wanderers without an abiding place. They did business in such places and at such times as suited the personal convenience of the city officials, and as the necessities of the service required. The Common Council of the city held its first meetings in a room on Monroe street between Market and Ottawa streets. After that until 1876 it wandered from place to place among which are the following: Office of Ralph Cole, office of James Miller, office of Leonard Bement, in the Taylor building at the foot of Monroe street, in the Commercial block, in the Lippig Block on Lyon street, in the old postoffice building, in the McReynolds Block, in the Rathbun Building, in the Roberts building, in the Randall Block, over the old Dikeman

jewelry store on Canal street, in Powers' Opera House, and from 1876 to the completion of the city hall in the Morey Block on Pearl street where now are the Lincoln Club rooms. The offices of the city officials were generally kept at the places of the private business of the officers until the city business required the entire time of its officials, after which the city rented offices as they could be obtained until the city hall was completed. The City Clerk and the clerk of the Superior Court kept their offices in the Morey Block from 1876 until 1888 during which time the Superior Court also held its sessions there.

The first effort of Grand Rapids to obtain a home for its government was in October, 1854, when the city bought from J. F. Chubb lot 4 of Block 15 of Campau plat for \$450. That plat now forms a part of the site of the Gilbert Block at the corner of Monroe and Commerce streets. In 1868 the city traded that lot to Thomas D. Gilbert and Frank B. Gilbert for the east half of lot 9 of Block 8 of Campau plat, which lot is now a part of the site of the Ledyard Block at the corner of Ottawa and Pearl streets. In 1872 the city sold that lot to W. B. Ledyard for \$9,000 and then purchased a portion of lot 1 of Block 9 of the Campau Plat which is now a part of the site of the Michigan Trust Company Building. The city afterward purchased a strip of land ten feet wide from Charles Shepard adjoining its lot on the south. In July, 1883, the city sold its holdings where the Michigan Trust Company Building now is for \$15,000, and purchased lots 59-68, and the south half of lot 73 the same being 100 by 125 feet at the corner of Ottawa and Lyon streets and a part of the present site of the city hall. It was known as the Dr. Spaulding property. To the lots obtained from Dr. Spaulding were added by subsequent purchase the lands now constituting the site of the city hall as follows: September 15th, 1883, from S. A. Winchester 50 by 100 feet, being parts of lots 82 and 83; March 1st, 1884, from John Bertsch 50 by 150 feet, being parts of lots 58-69 and 72; July 3rd, 1884, from John Bertsch 50 by 150 feet, being part of lots 58-69 and 72; and May 6, 1885, from Anthony Bodelack 25 by 100 feet, being part of lot 83. The site of the city hall is 220 feet on Lyon street and 175 feet on Ottawa and Ionia streets. Its total cost was \$34,450.00.

The construction of a city hall for Grand Rapids was first declared a necessary public improvement May 10, 1873. At that

time the intention was to build a city hall where now is the Michigan Trust Building. Plans were adopted for a building, but no further steps were taken. January 27, 1879, Mayor Henry S. Smith in a special message to the Common Council recommended the erection of a building on the same site. The special committee to whom the matter was referred could not agree and the matter then dropped. September 1st, 1879, Mayor Letellier in a special message to the Common Council recommended the erection of a building on the same site. This time plans and specifications and estimates were submitted, but nothing more was done.

September 12th, 1881, a special committee of the Common Council recommended that the city join with Kent County in erecting a building upon Fulton Street Park for the joint use of city and county. The report was laid on the table and the city hall matter again slumbered for a year and a half.

May 28th, 1883, Mayor Angell appointed a special committee from the Common Council to look up a suitable site for a city hall, which committee on June 18th, following made report recommending the purchase of the Spaulding lots and on July 2nd, 1883, the Common Council authorized the purchase.

On July 12th, 1883, the Common Council for the last time declared the erection of a city hall a necessary public improvement and requested the Board of Public Works to procure plans for a building to cost from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

March 31st, 1884, Alderman Brenner offered a resolution to submit to the election of the city at the next election a proposition to borrow \$100,000 to build a city hall. On motion of Alderman Gilbert it was amended to read \$150,000. On April 7th, 1884, the city authorized the loan by a majority vote of 3,278.

June 30th, 1884, the Board of Public Works sent a circular to competing architects for plans and specifications which were received and opened by the Board October 1st, 1884. On October 21st, the plans of E. E. Myers, a Detroit architect, were unanimously adopted by the Board. February 4th, 1885, the Board advertised for sealed bids to contract for building and completing the structure called for by the plans and specifications. It was found that no builder would contract to complete the building for \$150,000. The lowest bid was \$185,641.68 by W. D. Richardson of Springfield, Ill. A special meeting of the Common

Council was then called by Mayor Belknap for April 19th, 1885, which was largely attended by interested citizens. The matter was thoroughly canvassed and it was unanimously voted both by the Common Council and by the citizens present to adopt the plans and specifications recommended by the Board of Public Works, and award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder. The contract was awarded to Mr. Richardson by the Board of Public Works and approved by the Common Council April 11, 1885. The first estimate upon the contract was certified by the Board on June 13th, 1885, and final settlement was had on August 25th, 1888.

The laying of the corner stone of the city hall took place on September 9th, 1885. Captain Charles E. Belknap was marshal of the day. The order of procession was as follows: Platoon of Police, Band, President Thayer and Mayor Curtiss, Common Council, Judge Parrish and Judge Holmes, City Officials, Board of Public Works, E. E. Myers, architect of the city hall, W. D. Richardson, contractor of the city hall, Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, Board of Health, Board of Education, Board of Equalization, Board of Cemetery Commissioners, Military Companies.

The procession marched through Canal, Monroe, North Division and Lyon streets to the site of the new building where, after prayer by the Rev. Charles Fluhrer, George W. Thayer delivered the address of the day after which the Schubert Club sang "America" and the corner stone was placed by the Masonic fraternity according to their ancient symbolic rites. James H. Farnum was Grand Master. The Grand Lodge of the State was escorted by De Molai Commandery. All the Masonic lodges of Kent County were present and assisted in the exercises. After laying the corner stone the band rendered a selection, the Rev. S. Burford pronounced the benediction and the exercises closed with "Old Hundred" sung by the Schubert Club in which the audience joined.

The dedicatory exercises of the city hall were held on September 16, 1888. The procession formed in front of the old Council chamber as follows: Platoon of Police, Mayor Weston and the orator of the day, C. I. Walker, Common Council, visiting mayors and municipal officers, Ex-mayors, ex-city officials, county officers, city officials, city boards, architect and contractor,

Board of Public Works, Ex-Members of Board of Public Works. The line of march was to the city hall which during the day had been thronged by thousands of visitors. The formal exercises commenced by: Music by the Schubert Club, which was followed by an invocation by Rt. Rev. Geo. D. Gillespie. The architect and contractor each spoke briefly of their work on the building. President George G. Briggs of the Board of Public Works, made an official announcement on behalf of the Board of Public Works and formally presented the city hall to the Mayor and the Common Council. Mayor Weston on behalf of the city accepted the hall and declared it open for public use. The Hon. Charles I. Walker first village treasurer of Grand Rapids in 1838, was present by invitation and delivered an address giving interesting personal reminiscences of Grand Rapids in early days. Fifty years had seen many changes in the Valley City.

Among the subcontractors and independent workmen who did work on the city hall were the following:

Wealthey & Pulte, mantels, grates and gas fixtures; Detroit Metal and Heating Works, heating apparatus and fixtures; E. Ferrand & Co., Detroit, bronze work; Alexander Walteson, stone work and coping; Howard Walch & Co., town clock; W. E. Hale & Co., Chicago, elevator; Bennett & Osburn, Grand Rapids, interior wood finish; Kinzley & Miller, slate roof; Dodge & Carey, stucco work.

Superintendents of the work were John S. Farr and Charles Woodard. The furniture was furnished by the Phoenix Furniture Company and was designed by D. W. Kendall.

The city hall has a frontage of 160 feet on Lyon street, and is 96 feet deep. The tower is 163 feet high. It was built under the supervision of the Board of Public Works. Its cost was as follows:

Contract price .....	\$185,641.68
Extra work, not included .....	3,494.12
Tiling floors .....	8,899.96
Steam heating .....	11,909.80
Stone walks and coping .....	10,446.15
Mantels and grates .....	1,888.10
Gas fixtures .....	3,135.21
Elevator and connections .....	3,168.58
Tower clock .....	2,231.61
Bronze work .....	1,163.12

Painting and oiling floors .....	825.63
Grading and sodding lot, sewers, etc .....	1,332.63
Printing .....	292.87
Architect's fees .....	6,000.00
Inspection .....	5,256.00
Total .....	<u>\$245,685.46</u>

In the basement of the city hall are the offices of the Board of Poor Commissioners, the Justice Court rooms, offices of the Justices and Clerk of the Justice Court, the City Physician, engine room and store rooms. On the first floor are offices of the City Marshal, and Building Inspector, City Comptroller, General Tax Department, Superintendent of Schools, Secretary of the Board of Education, Board of Assessors, Board of Public Works and Water Works. On the second floor are the offices of the Mayor, City Clerk, City Treasurer, Board of Health, Plumbing Inspector and City Engineer. On the third floor are the Common Council Chamber, and Committee rooms, the Superior Court room and offices of the Judge of the Superior Court, the City Attorney, and Clerk of the Superior Court and jury rooms. On the fourth floor are store rooms, and offices of the Milk Inspectors.

The following are the officers of the city for 1905:

#### **City Officers.**

**Executive Department**—Mayor, Edwin F. Sweet; Mayor's Secretary, Frank W. Hine; City Clerk, John L. Boer; Deputy Clerk, Peter Telder; Index Clerk, Thomas G. O'Donnell; Special Clerk, Bessie A. Powers; Bookkeeper, Rudolph Doornink; Engrossing Clerk, Michael Zielinski.

**Legal Department**—City Attorney, Moses Taggart; First Assistant City Attorney, Sylvester W. Barker; Second Assistant City Attorney, Raymond M. Furguson.

**Auditing Department**—Comptroller, Rufus S. French; Deputy Comptroller, Herman F. Kleibacker; Tax Title Clerk, William S. Coye; Bookkeeper, Dennis M. Colleton; Journal Clerk, Henry Woltjer; Accounts Clerk, Charles E. Fennell; General Clerk, Sienus DeVries.

**Treasury Department**—Treasurer, Oscar E. Kilstrom; Assistant Treasurer, James S. Hawkins; Chief Clerk, Albert D. Rietberg; Bookkeeper, Ernest F. Hubbard; Abstract Clerk, Chas. M. Anderson.

Marshal's Department—City Marshal, Thomas J. Gleason; Deputy City Marshal, Stanley Jackowski; Assistant City Marshal, H. H. Ryskamp; Marshal and Building Inspector's Clerk, S. N. Burchard.

Highway Commissioners—First District comprising First, Third, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Wards), Henry Houman; Second District, (Comprising Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Wards), Joseph C. Salisbury; Third District, (Comprising Second, Fourth and Fifth Wards), Wm. Walsh.

Building Inspector—George I. Davidson.

Superintendent of Market—Albert Stryker.

Milk Inspector—Wm. A. McLean; Eldon Smith, D. V. S., Assistant Inspector.

#### **Board of Public Works.**

Maurice Shanahan, President; Samuel G. Braudy, James E. Keegan, Charles M. Wilson, George C. Peirce, Samuel A. Freshney, Secretary and General Manager, Adolph Wurzburg, Deputy Secretary and Chief Inspector; Andrew A. Stephenson, Bookkeeper; Burton A. Ruhlman, Assistant Bookkeeper; Adolph J. Hake, Assistant Clerk; Florence M. Rowson, Record Clerk; Mazie O'Connor, Stenographer.

Committees—Ways and Means, Braudy & Wilson; Collector's Accounts, Peirce; Supplies and Repairs, Keegan & Peirce; Employes and Salaries, Wilson & Keegan; Lighting, Keegan & Braudy.

#### **Engineering Department.**

City Engineer, L. W. Anderson; Assistant Engineer, in charge of drafting, L. D. Cutcheon; Assistant Engineer, in charge of construction, P. Louwerse; Chief Clerk, Perry Gray; Assistant Engineer, on improvements, R. D. McCready; Assistant Engineer, on sewers and sidewalks, R. E. Elsner; Stenographer, Gertrude M. Abell; Bookkeeper, W. A. Riley; Assistant Bookkeeper, Harry A. Hoxie; Transitman, W. L. Pearson; Transitman, Rollin W. Stoddard; Draftsman, R. J. Cummins; Draftsman, Charles S. Keating; Draftsman, John W. Seens; Permit Clerk, E. H. Vandenberg; Tester of Materials, William Cummins; Rodman, Frank J. Meyers; Rodman, Leon C. Gray.

**City Lighting Department.**

Samuel Croop, Ben J. Heddis, Engineers.

City Repair Shops—John H. Todd, Foreman.

City Pumping Station—Jas. A. Kinney, General Manager  
Clerk ; Wm. J. Grooters, Engineer.

**City Lighting Plant.**

	1901-1902	1902-1903	1903-1904	1904-1905
Lamps in Circuit	531	578	623	686
App. for operating	\$21,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$32,000.00
Operating expen's	23,494.96	24,958.20	26,877.66	26,585.78†
App. for extension	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Construction exp's	2,654.24	3,831.65	4,096.34	3,000.00†
Cost per lamp per year (opera'g only)	40.99	43.40	43.85	40.36

**Board of Assessors.**

Gerrit H. DeGraaf, President; John E. More, Secretary; Edgar A. Fletcher; Simon Sullivan, Chief Clerk; Chas. E. Davis, Clerk; Jacob A. Smits, Clerk; A. B. Coffinberry, Clerk; Wm. Crewe, Clerk; Chas. Goudzwaard, Clerk; William Dooce, Clerk.

**Board of Health and Poor Commissioners.**

Alexander McKenzie Campbell, M.D., President; Jacob Dykema, term expires 1906; Chas. W. Calkins, term expires 1907; Alonzo B. Porter, term expires 1907; Dr. Joseph B. Whinery, term expires 1908; Edwin F. Sweet, Mayor, member ex-officio; Elvin Swarthout, President of Council, member ex-officio; Wm. O. Brown, Secretary; Thomas M. Koon, M. D., Health Officer; Chas. E. Hogadone, Superintendent of the Poor; Ralph Apted, M. D., City Physician; Henry N. Thompson, Plumbing Inspector; Geo. Haines, Clerk; A. Sinclair, Inspector; Mrs. Cora Neuville, Mat. Cont. Disease Hospital.

**Board of Sinking Fund Commissioners.**

Edwin F. Sweet, President; John L. Boer, Secretary; Oscar E. Kilstrom, Treasurer; Rufus S. French, Thomas Doran, John A. S. Verdier, Eugene D. Conger.



**Board of Park and Cemetery Commissioners.**

J. Boyd Pantlind, President; Herman G. Barlow, Vice President; Frank E. Pulte, Lester J. Rindge, Chas. B. Blair, Edwin F. Sweet, Mayor, member ex-officio; Edward M. Murphy, Secretary; Eugene V. Goebel, Superintendent City Cemeteries; Thomas Sowerby, Assistant Superintendent Greenwood Cemetery; Wencel L. Cukierski, Superintendent of Parks.

**Board of Estimates.**

Edwin F. Sweet, Mayor; John L. Boer, City Clerk; Rufus S. French, Comptroller, Thomas Doran, Christian Gallmeyer, Harry C. White, John Widdicomb, Thomas F. Carroll, Edward Lowe.

**Board of Yellows Commissioners.**

Homer Klap, Thomas Griffin, Robert Snyder.

**Superior Court.**

Judge, Wm. J. Stuart; Clerk, George G. Lamb; Deputy Clerk and Messenger, Chester A. Ratajezak; Court Officer, Frank W. Worfel; Court Officer, D. W. Van Zee; Stenographer, Chas. H. Bender; Assistant Stenographer, Christopher Hondelink.

**Police Court.**

Judge, Frank A. Hess; Clerk, Dick DeBruyn; Deputy Clerk, Nicholas Kik; Bailiff, Cornelius Kik; Court Officer, Thomas C. Price; Stenographer, Webster W. Mitchell.

**Justices' Courts.**

Justice, John W. Holcomb; Justice, Orley C. Granger; Clerk, James Schriver; Assistant Clerk, Mayme Emperor.

**The Soldiers' Home.**

For many years there was agitation in Michigan for building a home for disabled and aged soldiers who needed a refuge for their declining years. Act No. 152 of the Session Laws of 1885 approved June 5, 1885, provided for the "establishment of a home for disabled soldiers, sailors and mariners within the state of Michigan." Under that Act Governor Alger appointed as a

Board of Managers, A. T. Bliss of Saginaw, and Samuel Wells, of Buchanan, for six years; Byron R. Pierce of Grand Rapids and Charles A. Rennie of Detroit for four years; and Michael Brown of Big Rapids and Charles Y. Osburn of Marquette for two years. By virtue of his office Governor Alger was chairman of the first Board. An appropriation of \$50,000 was made for maintaining the Home for the years 1885 and 1886. One of the first considerations of the Board was the selection of a site. From different points in the state there were sixteen propositions. After careful examination Grand Rapids was selected on August 22, 1885, by the Board as the place for the Home. After Grand Rapids was selected many sites near the city were offered and considered but finally the "Nelson Farm," three miles north of the business center of the city was selected. The tract, comprising 132 acres, was purchased by citizens of Grand Rapids at a cost of \$16,500 and deeded to the State. The amount was made up in small subscriptions, by upward of 450 persons.

Plans and specifications were advertised for, a premium of \$1,000 for the best and \$800 for the second best being offered. A number were received. That of F. W. Hollister, an architect of Saginaw, was accepted and adopted, and the first premium awarded to him. Proposals for the construction of the building were then solicited, in response to which eight bids were received. January 27, 1886, the bids were opened and the contract was awarded to Charles Tiedke, of Saginaw, at \$99,667.57, he being the lowest responsible bidder. March 15, 1886, ground was broken for the foundation of the building. April 13th, the first stone was laid. June 3 the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, but without public demonstration. In it was placed a sealed box containing: Michigan Manual, 1885 and 1886; official report of the Nineteenth Annual Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, held in Portland, Maine; report of Sixth Annual Reunion of Soldiers and Sailors of Southern Michigan; roster of the G. A. R., 1885-86, Department of Michigan; copies of current local railway time tables and reports; Charter of the city of Big Rapids; memorial by Pennoyer Post, G. A. R., Saginaw; "Michigan, My Michigan," poem by Major J. W. Long; memorial lines by Colonel Samuel Wells, Manager of the Home; copy of Governor Alger's first message; copy of the law authorizing the establishment of the Sol-

diers' Home; copy of Daily Eagle of November 30, 1885, with list of contributors for the purchase of the site; copies of the Democrat and Telegram-Herald, and the following sentiment penned by Major and Justice of the Supreme Court A. B. Morse: "This day the corner-stone of Michigan's best and latest testimonial to the worth and services of her sons in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion and the re-establishment of a United Government will be laid; a Home for the disabled and enfeebled veterans who lost their health and energies in defense of our homes. May it stand forever."

Pending the construction of the building, temporary arrangements were made as provided by law for the care of indigent soldiers, and applications for admission began to come in at once, the first admitted being John Wright, Fourteenth Michigan Infantry, September 11, 1885. Colonel Samuel Wells, Manager, was selected to have charge of the temporary Home. The office was first opened in Lansing, with Major J. W. Long as clerk and bookkeeper, but August 31, 1885, it was removed to Grand Rapids, and remained in the city until the completion of the Home. On January 1, 1887, it was again moved to the new building. During the interval before occupying the new building, 454 were admitted. The conditions of admission were: A declaration from the applicant, stating that he served as a soldier or sailor in the Union army or navy during the late civil war, and, that if he did not serve in a Michigan regiment, that he was, on the first day of June, 1864, an actual resident of the State of Michigan; also, a statement of his military service, number of enlistments, age, nativity, occupation, married or single, and name and address of nearest living relative. This was followed by a declaration of his disability; a statement as to the amount of his pension, the affidavit closing with an obligation to obey and abide by the rules and regulations of the Home. Following this was a certificate of identification to determine citizenship, and condition as far as ability to take care of himself was concerned. A surgeon's certificate followed this, stating the physical condition of the applicant. Arrangements for the keeping and care of inmates were first made with the Board of Managers of the St. Mark's Home, at \$3 a week per man. Soon there came many requiring hospital treatment, and for these \$2 a week additional was allowed. St. Mark's Home was soon filled, and others were established—U. B.

A. Home, Clinton Home, American Home, Wilson Home, Smith Home, and Nelsonwood Home. The latter was in a building on the Soldiers' Home grounds, which had been owned and used by James M. Nelson in his lifetime for a summer residence. At the American Home, a building formerly used as a hotel, on Canal street north of Bridge, a general hospital was established and dispensary opened, and Dr. R. Humphrey Stevens placed in charge as Acting Surgeon.

The dedication of the Home at its completion, December 30, 1886, was an affair of unusual public interest. The building was filled. Thousands of people were in attendance. The ceremonies were opened with prayer by the Rev. Washington Gardner. Charles Tiedke, the builder, presented the structure to Fred W. Hollister, the architect, who accepted it and in turn delivered it to Governor Alger. Next in order was the presentation of the Home by the Governor to John Northwood, Department Commander, G. A. R., for dedication. Then followed the ritualistic dedication conducted by Commander Northwood, a dedicatory address by Governor Alger, and addresses by the Hon. Byron M. Cutcheon, by Governor-elect Cyrus G. Luce, by ex-Governor Austin P. Blair, by ex-Senator Thomas W. Ferry, and other invited guests. Between the speeches the exercises were enlivened by spirited patriotic songs and military music.

The original Soldiers' Home Building was 258 feet in length, the central portion 98 feet deep, and the wings at the ends each 120 feet deep; with a basement, three stories and attics. It is admirably constructed for the purposes intended. It stands fronting the river, is finely located, 38 feet above the river level, and in appearance is among the handsomest public buildings in the State. The foundation is of stone, the walls are of brick with cut stone trimmings, and it is surmounted by a slate roof with galvanized iron cornices. The stone masonry and brick work, and furnishing of the interior, also the plumbing and gas fixtures, were done mainly by Grand Rapids mechanics and manufacturers. The building is heated by steam. It has an abundant supply of excellent water, and an effective system of sewerage.

The State Legislature, at the session of 1889, appropriated for improvements at the Soldiers' Home: For a hospital, \$20,000; for a dormitory, \$12,000; for a receiving vault, \$475, and for a root house \$725—in all \$33,200. The hospital is 140 feet north and 110

feet back from the main building; 116 feet front by 90 feet deep; two stories and basement. The dormitory is 60 feet south and 30 feet to the rear of the main structure; 100 feet front by 40 feet deep; two stories and basement; with an "L" at the rear for laundry and bakery, 100 feet deep and one story high. Excellent provision is made for warming and ventilating these buildings. South of the main building is the building used as the Woman's Department.

The supervision and government of the Home is vested in a Board of Managers consisting of the Governor, who is Chairman ex-officio, and six members appointed by the Governor for a term of six years.

In April, 1886, the Board of Managers located a Soldiers' Home Cemetery. The site comprises five acres near the northwest corner of the grounds, on which is an oak grove. The plat of the cemetery was in the form of a maltese cross, on each of four sections of which are laid out spaces for 262 graves.

**The following are the conditions now required for admission to the Michigan Soldiers' Home:**

The following conditions of admission to the Home are very simple and must be complied with:

First. The applicant must state his case under oath; make application for admission; and also make a pledge under oath to abide by the rules and regulations of the Home.

Second. The certificate of identification must be signed by either the supervisor of the township or ward in which the applicant resides, the County Clerk or Judge of Probate of the county in which the applicant resides, or any member of the Board of Managers; this is to indicate citizenship.

Third. The medical certificate must be filled in, to indicate physical disability. It is useless to send incomplete papers to this office, as they will be returned. Discharges or transcripts of service in the army must accompany each application. Where the discharges have been lost or are in the hands of pension attorneys, a transcript of service can be obtained by writing to the Adjutant General of the State in which such applicant enlisted.

It is also necessary to give the postoffice address, with the county, and also the nearest railroad station. In fact, to supply this office with the necessary information to enable it to under-

stand the case and the best route to bring the applicant here, if admitted.

The blank must be filled in as indicated by the blank spaces.

The following section of law creating the Michigan Soldiers' Home is appended to show the conditions of admissibility:

"All honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines, who have served in the army or navy of the United States in the late war of the Rebellion, or in the Mexican war, or in the late war with Spain, and who are disabled by disease, wounds or otherwise, and who have no adequate means of support, and by reason of such disability are incapable of earning their living, and who would be otherwise dependent upon public or private charity, shall be entitled to be admitted to said Home, subject to the rules and regulations that shall be adopted by the Board of Managers to govern the admission of applicants to said Home: Provided, That no applicant shall be admitted to said Home who has not been a resident of the State of Michigan for one year next preceding the passage of this act, unless he served in a Michigan regiment or was accredited to the State of Michigan."

Every pensioner residing in this Home and accepting its benefits must turn over to the Commandant his quarterly pension check upon receipt of the same. The Commandant shall send to the dependent relatives of the pension such sums as the pensioner may direct. (A dependent relative is understood to be a parent, wife or child.) The balance shall be given to the pensioner in such amounts as the Commandant shall deem advisable: Provided, That when the pensioner shall take his discharge from the Home, all money on deposit to his credit shall be paid over to him.

The Attorney General of Michigan has decided that the inmates of the different National Homes are in the enjoyment of adequate means of support, and they are therefore ineligible to admission, so that no application from any of this class will be considered.

Honorable discharge from the service is indispensable. No deserter need apply, for they will not be admitted.

Persons of unsound mind cannot be received. The proper course to pursue is, in such cases, to make application for their admission into one of the insane asylums of the State, to the judge of probate of the county where such applicant resides.

The Michigan Soldiers' Home is one and a half miles north of the city of Grand Rapids, at which place all accepted applicants should report.

No person should be sent here for admission until he has been duly notified that his or her application has been approved.

#### **Conditions of Admission to the Woman's Building.**

First. Applicants for admission to the Woman's Building of the Home must make a formal application on the printed blank. Mothers, widows and wives of veterans who served in the Mexican War, or in the war of the Rebellion are eligible under the following conditions:

Second. The husband or son must have died in the service, or have had an honorable discharge therefrom.

Third. He must have served in a Michigan regiment, or have been accredited to the State of Michigan, or have resided in the State of Michigan for at least one year immediately preceding June 5, 1885.

Fourth. In case of a wife or widow, she must have married her soldier husband prior to January 1, 1875.

Fifth. In case she has been divorced from her soldier husband, or he has died, and she has remarried she has lost all rights as the wife or widow of such soldier.

Sixth. She must show that she has no property or means of support, and has no relatives of sufficient ability to maintain her, who are legally liable for her support, and that she is unable to earn her own living, and that she is of good moral character.

Every woman pensioner residing in this Home and accepting its benefits must turn over to the commandant her quarterly pension check upon receipt of same, which amount shall be retained for the use of the Home, except \$5.00 per month devoted to her use.

By order of COL. GEORGE E. JUDD, Commandant.

E. B. TAYLOR, Adjutant.

#### **Members of Board.**

The following citizens of Michigan have been members of the Board of Managers, Michigan Soldiers' Home, from organization to 1906:

**Governors—Chairmen Ex-officio**—Russell A. Alger, to Jan. 1, 1887; Cyrus G. Luce, to Jan. 1, 1891; Edwin B. Winans, to Jan. 1,

1893; John T. Rich, to Jan. 1, 1897; Hazen S. Pingree, to Jan. 1, 1901; Aaron T. Bliss, to Jan. 1, 1905; Fred M. Warner.

**Clerks**—B. F. Graves, E. F. Grabill, John Northwood, Michael Brown, L. G. Rutherford, John W. McCrath, Charles P. Coffin, E. H. Foote.

**Treasurers**—Aaron T. Bliss, L. K. Bishop, W. S. Turck, Lyman W. Bliss, L. G. Rutherford, John W. McCrath, L. W. Sprague, James A. Crozer, Chas. P. Coffin, Louis Kanitz.

**Original Members of Board**—1, Samuel Wells of Buchanan; 2, Aaron T. Bliss of Saginaw; 3, Byron R. Pierce of Grand Rapids; 4, Royal A. Remick of Detroit; 5, Michael Brown of Big Rapids; 6, Charles Y. Osburn of Marquette.

**Successors**—James A. Crozer of Menominee, March 1, 1887, to April 1, 1896; Russell A. Alger of Detroit, May 1, 1887, to March 1, 1890; Benjamin F. Graves of Adrian, March 1, 1889, to May 1, 1893; Lyman W. Bliss of Saginaw, December 20, 1889, to March 1, 1891; I. C. Smith of Grand Rapids, March 1, 1890, to March 1, 1891; E. F. Grabill of Greenville, March 1, 1890, to March 1, 1891; W. H. Withington of Jackson, March 1, 1890, to December 20, 1890; L. S. Trowbridge of Detroit, December 20, 1890, to March 1, 1891; L. G. Rutherford of Grand Rapids, March 1, 1891, to March 1, 1897; Rush J. Shank of Lansing, March 1, 1891, to March 1, 1897; L. W. Sprague of Greenville, March 1, 1891, to March 1, 1895; Charles H. Manly of Ann Arbor, March 1, 1891, to March 25, 1891; George P. Sanford of Lansing, March 25, 1891, to March 1, 1893; Loomis K. Bishop of Grand Rapids, March 1, 1893, to March 1, 1899; W. S. Turck of Alma, April 1, 1896, to March 1, 1899; John Northwood of New Lathrop, May 1, 1893, to March 1, 1901; E. E. Grabill of Greenville, March 1, 1895, to March 1, 1901; Wm. Hartstuff of Port Huron, March 1, 1897, to June 26, 1904; Jno. W. McCrath of Grand Rapids, March 1, 1897, to March 1, 1903; Geo. C. Wetherbee of Detroit, March 1, 1899; Chas. P. Coffin of Grand Rapids, March 1, 1899; Louis Kanitz of Muskegon, March 1, 1901; D. B. K. Van Raalte of Holland, March 1, 1901; Edward P. Allen of Ypsilanti, March 1, 1903; Alfred Milnes of Coldwater, July 1, 1904.

**Subsidiaries**—Samuel Wells (acting), L. W. Sprague (acting), Byron R. Pierce, Joseph A. McKee, Chas. H. Manly, Benj. F. Graves, James A. Crozer, George E. Judd, George H. Turner.

\*Died in office.



**Officers of the Soldiers' Home for 1905.**

**Board of Managers.**—George C. Wetherbee, of Detroit, March 1, 1911; E. H. Foote, of Grand Rapids, March 1, 1911; Louis Kanitz of Muskegon, March 1, 1907; D. B. K. Van Raalte, of Holland, March 1, 1907; E. P. Allen, of Ypsilanti, March 1, 1909; Alfred Milnes of Coldwater, March 1, 1909; Governor Fred M. Warner, ex-officio.

**Officers of the Board.**—The Governor, Chairman Ex-officio; Geo. C. Wetherbee, Chairman pro tem; E. H. Foote, Clerk; Louis Kanitz, Treasurer.

**Officers of the Home.**—Col. George H. Turner, Commandant; Maj. Edward B. Taylor, Adjutant; Maj. H. R. Mills, Surgeon; Capt. C. L. Brundage, Quartermaster.

**Board of Managers' Last Report.**

Michigan Soldiers' Home, June 30, 1904.

Hon. Aaron T. Bliss, Governor:

Sir—In conformity with law, we have the honor to make this, our tenth biennial report.

The appropriations made by the Legislature of 1903 were as follows:

**Current Expense (Act No. 52).**

Year ending June 30, 1904.....	\$134,875.00
Year ending June 30, 1905.....	134,875.00
Total current expenses.....	\$269,750.00

**Special Appropriations (Act No. 52).**

Barn .....	\$3,000.00
Electric passenger elevator, main building.....	2,500.00
Electric machinery, elevator in hospital.....	1,500.00
Machinery in laundry.....	1,500.00
Total special appropriation.....	\$8,500.00

The appropriations for elevators and laundry machinery have been expended except \$35.90. The machinery has been installed, and both of the elevators, and the laundry machinery are in daily use, giving good service. Plans have been prepared and

accepted for the barn, and the building will be erected during the present year.

### Improvements.

No general improvements of importance, except such as were provided for by special appropriation, have been completed, but a commencement has been made for a general renewal and rearrangement of the electric wires in all of the Home buildings. When the work is completed greater efficiency at a less cost and less danger from fire will be the result. The buildings belonging to the Home have been kept, and are now, in a good state of repair, and the grounds occupied by the Home are each year being permanently improved and beautified.

### Expenditures.

#### Current Expenses—Receipts.

The report of the Treasurer, submitted herewith, shows a balance on hand June 30, 1902, of....	\$3,928.90
Receipts from State Treasurer, July 1, 1902, to June 30, 1904, have been.....	247,646.25
Transfer from special appropriations.....	231.88
From sundry sources.....	11,377.59
Total .....	\$263,184.62

#### Expenditures.

Returned to State Treasurer.....	\$ 4.76
Expenditures account current expenses, two years ending June 30, 1904.....	259,243.25
On hand June 30, 1904.....	3,936.61
Total .....	\$263,184.62

### Special Appropriations.

#### Receipts.

On hand July 1, 1902.....	\$ 212.65
Appropriations made by State.....	8,500.00
Other sources .....	7.89
Total .....	\$ 8,720.54

**Expenditures.**

Transferred to current expense account.....	\$ 212.65
As designated in appropriation acts.....	5,472.60
On hand July 30, 1904.....	3,035.29
Total .....	<u>\$ 8,720.54</u>

**United States Government Aid.**

There has been received from the United States Government, and turned into the general fund of the State Treasury, on account of the allowance of \$100.00 per capita per annum, made by the United States for the care of veteran soldiers, members of this Home, the sum of \$146,048.73.

The amount expended from the State appropriation for the current expenses of this Home for the two years covered by this report has been:

(See above) .....	\$260,687.57
Received from the United States government in part payment of the same.....	<u>146,048.73</u>
Actual cast to the State for the current expenses of the Home for the two years ending June 30, 1904.	\$114,638.84
Showing the cost per capita per annum to the State for the maintenance of a member of this Home to have been .....	69.73

**Membership.**

The average number of members present in the Home for the year ending June 30, 1903, was: Veterans, 741; wives, widows and mothers, 71; total 812. For the year ending June 30, 1904, it was: Veterans, 758; wives, widows and mothers, 74; total, 832. Average membership present for two years ending June 30, 1904, is 822; average membership for two previous years, 774; increase in number of members present, 48.

**General Remarks.**

During the months from March to November, we are able to care for all of our members without undue crowding, but in each December, January and February the Home is full to overflowing and we are obliged to utilize part of the basement in

the main building for a dormitory. Despite the use of these quarters we are obliged, during these months, to keep a "waiting list" and applicants, during these months, are obliged to wait from four to eight weeks, until a vacancy occurs, before they can be admitted to the Home.

The death rate for the past two years again shows an increase: Total membership for two years ending June 30, 1900, 1,596; the number of deaths in the same time, 143; percentage of deaths to membership, 8.99. Total membership for the two years ending June 30, 1902, 1,750; total number of deaths in the same time, 172; percentage of deaths to membership, 9.83. Total membership for the two years ending June 30, 1904, 1,879; the number of deaths for the same time, 215; percentage of deaths to membership, 11.44.

This increase in the death rate is to be attributed solely to the additional years and multiplying infirmities of our members. The general health of the members is, considering their years, excellent, and there have been no epidemics or sickness of an extraordinary nature among them.

#### **Estimates—Current Expenses.**

We estimate that the membership of the Soldiers' Home for the year ending June 30, 1906, will average 900-810 men, and 90 mothers, wives and widows, and for the year ending June 30, 1907, 1,000-880 men, and 120 mothers, wives and widows, and that the expense of maintenance will be \$162.50 per annum. Of this amount we estimate that \$169,000 (\$100.00 per capita per annum, for each veteran of the Home, based on average membership) will be returned to the State by the United States Government, thus making the actual cost to the State of the maintenance of each member, not including special appropriations, \$73.00.

#### **Special Appropriations.**

The membership of this Home continues to steadily increase, and we have every reason to believe that this increase will continue for some years to come. Our present facilities are not sufficient to care for the applicants for admission during the winter months, when most of all, our destitute veterans need proper food and shelter. Although every particle of room is utilized,

a "waiting list" is necessary each winter, and the number on the list is larger, and the time of their waiting is longer, each year. A large proportion of our members, owing to their age and infirmities, need special attention and supervision that cannot be given to them in their quarters in the main building and dormitory. Each year this proportion increases, and in order that that we may properly care for these old and infirm men and women, our hospital accommodations should be increased. We ask \$100,000.00 for a fire proof hospital capable of accommodating 300 patients. If this is allowed two objects will be attained: one, better care for our invalid and infirm men and women, and the other, more room in our main and women's buildings for the increasing number of those asking admission to this Home

A building in which can be located the machine and repair shop, and the paint, carpenter and blacksmith shops, is very much needed. At present all of the above named shops are located in the basement of the main building. They are dark and inconvenient, and economical and satisfactory work cannot be done in them. They are also dangerous in case fire should break out in any of them. Safety and economy will be promoted if this building is provided for, and we ask \$3,000.00 for this purpose.

Four years ago a 1,200 light dynamo and engine, direct connected, were purchased for this Home. They have done good and satisfactory work every day since they were installed, almost three years ago. We have also two small engines and separate dynamos, which have been in use here many years. The two of them have only about half of the capacity of the large machine, and they are considerably the worse for wear. Their work is not economical, their working efficiency being not to exceed 50 per cent of the power applied, while a machine such as we ask for would develop at least 90 per cent of efficiency. At present they are used for furnishing power and light after midnight and in the day time, when a smaller amount is required than during the late afternoon, and earlier hours of the night. In case of an accident disabling the large engine or dynamo, they would be entirely inadequate to furnish the light and power required by the Home during many hours of the twenty-four. Experience in electrical engineering shows that duplicate machinery is absolutely necessary in a plant where demands are made on it every

hour in the twenty-four. We recommend the purchase of a 1,600 light dynamo and engine, and if that is done, the electrical equipment of this Home will be ample for many years to come. We ask an appropriation of \$4,300.00 for this purpose.

Extensions and renewals of pipes connected with our system of water works are advisable and necessary, to give better service, both for daily use and in case of fire. Extensions and partial renewals of our steam pipes are also advisable. We ask \$2,500.00 for this purpose.

We are now obliged to take the weights of shippers in the purchase of coal needed for our Home (about 3,500 tons annually). In many instances cars are delivered showing plainly that more or less of their contents have disappeared en route. We think the money needed for the purchase of a 100 ton track scale would be well invested. We ask \$1,200.00 for this purpose.

#### **Appropriations.**

We respectfully recommend that the Legislature appropriate for the year ending June 30, 1906, the following amounts:

For current expenses.....	\$146,250.00
For a hospital building with accommodations for 300 patients, made necessary by the large increase in applications for admission from disabled and aged soldiers .....	100,000.00
For building for machine and other shops.....	3,000.00
For 1,600 light dynamo and engine, direct connected.	4,300.00
For extension of water mains and steam pipes.....	2,500.00
For 100 ton track scale.....	1,200.00
Total .....	\$257,250.00

For year ending June 30, 1907:

For current expenses.....	\$162,500.00
Total .....	\$411,250.00

The amount appropriated for current expenses to cover all moneys needed for the maintenance of the Soldiers' Home (including the members of the Women's Building) and for the care and maintenance of the buildings and grounds in good condition.

All sums received from the National Government to be con-

verted into the State Treasury to the credit of the general fund.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. C. WETHERBEE,

CHAS. P. COFFIN,

LOUIS KANITZ,

D. B. K. VAN RAALTE,

EDWARD P. ALLEN,

ALFRED MILNES,

Board of Managers.

### **The Commandant's Last Report.**

gives interesting facts and figures concerning the Home. It is as follows:

Headquarters Michigan Soldiers' Home, June 30, 1904.

To the Board of Managers, Michigan Soldiers' Home:

Gentlemen:—Herewith I have the honor to make my fourth biennial report of the management of the Michigan Soldiers' Home, this being for the two years ending June 30, 1904.

I commenced my last report by stating that the population of the Home was slowly but steadily increasing. This increase still continues. June 30, 1902, our membership was: Men, 914; women, 94; total, 1,008. At this date the membership is: Men, 934; women, 101; total, 1,035. I see no reason for believing that the limit has yet been reached, and think an increase in the population of the Home may be looked for for some years yet.

The death rate is also increasing. Two hundred thirty-seven members of the Home, 215 men and 22 women, have died in the past two years. This shows an increase of 48 men and 5 women, as compared with the previous two years. This is due entirely to the advancing years and feebleness of our members, as there have been no epidemics, or unusual sickness in the Home.

During the past two years the expenditures of the Home have been kept within the limits of the appropriations made for them. A new elevator in the main building, ample for all demands that may be made upon it; electrical machinery for the elevator in the hospital, in place of the inefficient hydraulic machinery originally installed, and new machinery for the laundry, in place of the worn out plant which had been in operation more than fifteen years, were provided for by special appropriations made by the last Legislature. These have all been installed, and are now in

operation, giving good satisfaction. No use has yet been made of the appropriation of \$3,000.00 for a new barn and storehouse, which was made at the same time.

The supplies furnished the Home, with one or two unimportant exceptions, have been of good quality, and our members are well fed, clothed and lodged. The discipline of the Home has been maintained, and the Michigan Soldiers' Home will compare favorably, in the good care taken of its members, in their general deportment and appearance, and in the expense of their maintenance, with any of the State or National Homes, which, located in nearly every section of our broad land, are now caring for nearly 40,000 of the brave boys in blue, who are so rapidly passing from us.

Accompanying this report, I submit the reports of the Adjutant and Surgeon of the Home.

Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE E. JUDD,

Commandant.

### **The Adjutant's Last Report**

gives interesting facts concerning the health of the inmates:

Michigan Soldiers' Home, July 1, 1904.

Col. George E. Judd, Commandant Michigan Soldiers' Home:

Sir:—I have the honor to submit, herewith, my biennial report, for the two years ending June 30, 1904.

At the date of my last biennial report, there were in the men's department of this Home: Present, 572; absent, 342; total, 914. From July 1, 1902, to June 30, 1904, there have been: Admitted, 431; readmitted, 534; total, 965. Honorably discharged, 544; summarily discharged, 3; dishonorably discharged, 75; dropped from rolls, 108; died, 215; total, 945. Present June 30, 1904, 597; absent June 30, 1904, 337; total, 934. The 597 men on that date reported as follows: For duty, 309; for extra duty, 117; excused from duty, 46; in hospital, 125. The 337 absent on that date are reported as follows: Absent with leave, 299; absent without leave, 19; in insane asylum, 19.

The following table shows the average number present each year since the organization of the Home:

	Present		
	Women.	In hosp.	inc. sick. Tot.
Year ending June 30, 1886.....	38	157	157



Year ending June 30, 1887.....	30	253	253
Year ending June 30, 1888.....	42	329	329
Year ending June 30, 1889.....	49	405	405
Year ending June 30, 1890.....	52	520	520
Year ending June 30, 1891.....	67	462	462
Year ending June 30, 1892.....	46	442	442
Year ending June 30, 1893.....	47	381	381
Year ending June 30, 1894.....	17 (6 mo.)	64	448
Year ending June 30, 1895.....	27	61	491
Year ending June 30, 1896.....	34	55	517
Year ending June 30, 1897.....	30	70	541
Year ending June 30, 1898.....	32	87	529
Year ending June 30, 1899.....	44	94	685
Year ending June 30, 1900.....	51	100	726
Year ending June 30, 1901.....	53	123	712
Year ending June 30, 1902.....	64	125	719
Year ending June 30, 1903.....	71	134	741
Year ending June 30, 1904.....	74	141	758

During the last biennial period there have died: Year ending June 30, 1903, 103; year ending June 30, 1904, 112; total, 215. Two of the above served in the Spanish-American war. Of these 45 died out of the Home (1 in insane asylum), 7 in the Home and 163 in the Home hospital.

The average age of all members of the Home (not including 9 who served in the Spanish-American war) is 68 1-3.

The average age at admission of the members admitted (not including those who served in the Spanish and later wars) during the biennial period ending June 30, 1904, is 66 1-3 years.

The average age of all members dying during that period was 69 1-2.

By comparison with the last report, it will be seen that the general average age of members has increased by three and one-third years. The average age of those admitted has increased by nearly two years, while the average age at death has increased two years.

The total number of men admitted into the Soldiers' Home from date of organization until June 30, 1904, is 4,277, 43 of whom were soldiers of the Spanish and subsequent wars, 9 of whom are now members of the Home; 6 of the members saw service in the war with Mexico, four of the six subsequently serving in the civil war. One thousand eighty who were mem-

bers of the Home at the time of their death, have died since it was first opened, September 11, 1885.

They served from the following states: Arkansas, 2; California, 11; Colorado, 2; Connecticut, 10; Delaware, 1; District of Columbia, 1; Georgia, 1; Illinois, 158; Indiana, 134; Iowa, 20; Kansas, 8; Kentucky, 8; Louisiana, 1; Maine, 26; Maryland, 3; Massachusetts, 45; Michigan, 2,566; Minnesota, 9; Mississippi, 16; Missouri, 7; New Hampshire, 2; New Jersey, 11; New Mexico, 10; New York, 667; North Carolina, 4; Ohio, 335; Pennsylvania, 108; Rhode Island, 3; Tennessee, 5; Texas, 1; Vermont, 19; Virginia, 2; West Virginia, 1; Wisconsin, 79.

Sixty per cent of those who have been members of the Home served in Michigan regiments. The other forty per cent were accredited to other states than Michigan, but were eligible for admission here by virtue of the clause in the law establishing the Home, which made all honorably discharged Union soldiers or sailors entitled to its benefits provided that they were residents of the State at the time of, and for one year next preceding the passage of the act establishing the Home. (June 5, 1885.)

#### **Maximum Attendance.**

Highest number present during fiscal year 1888, 331; 1889, 405; 1890, 623; 1891, 558; 1892, 563; 1893, 544; 1894, 593; 1895, 645; 1896, 636; 1897, 692; 1898, 667; 1899, 750; 1900, 794; 1901, 861; 1902, 894; 1903, 898; 1904, 916.

The time of the largest attendance is during the months of January and February. During the year just closed, the Home was filled to its utmost capacity for about six weeks, commencing January 15. During that time it was necessary to place about thirty applicants on the "waiting list." None of these were, however, obliged to remain over one month.

On the 30th day of June, 1904, there were on the muster rolls, 934 members of the following ages: 25 years (Spanish war), 1; 26 years (Spanish war), 1; 27 years (Spanish war), 1; 28 years (Spanish war), 1; 33 years (Spanish war), 1; 36 years (Spanish war), 1; 37 years (Spanish war), 2; 49 years (Spanish war), 1; 54 years, 1; 55 years, 7; 56 years, 17; 57 years, 16; 58 years, 31; 59 years, 37; 60 years, 49; 61 years, 45; 62 years, 48; 63 years, 48; 64 years, 62; 65 years, 53; 66 years, 40; 67 years, 53; 68 years, 49; 69 years, 35; 70 years, 36; 71 years, 34; 72 years, 32; 73 years, 31;

74 years, 28; 75 years, 30; 76 years, 17; 77 years, 25; 78 years, 21; 79 years, 14; 80 years, 9; 81 years, 9; 82 years, 5; 83 years, 10; 84 years, 13; 85 years, 3; 86 years, 2; 87 years, 3; 88 years, 3; 89 years, 2; 91 years, 3; 92 years, 1; 93 years, 1; 95 years, 2.

The average length of service of these men in the army was 23 6-10 months.

During the biennial period embraced in this report there have been expended from State appropriations: For current expenses, \$247,673.78; June vouchers, not yet paid (less receipts), \$11,941.96; total current expenses for two years, \$259,615.74; elevator in main building (special appropriation), \$2,585.65; elevator in hospital (special appropriation), \$1,500.00; machinery in laundry (special appropriation), \$1,379.06; total \$265,080.45.

Under the provisions of an act of Congress appropriating \$100 per capita per annum, for each veteran cared for in a State Soldiers' Home, there have been paid into the State Treasury and credited to the general fund, the following sums: For the year ending June 30, 1903, \$72,594.29; for the year ending June 30, 1904, \$73,454.44; total \$146,048.73.

With these amounts deducted the actual cost to the State of this Home for the past two years (including special appropriations) has been \$119,031.72.

The average cost of the maintenance of our members, per capita per annum, based on average membership, has been: For the year ending June 30, 1903, \$153.66; for the year ending June 30, 1904, \$163.16.

The average cost of subsistence for each member present per day (cost of help and all other expenses incurred in preparing and serving the food included) was: For the year ending June 30, 1903, \$0.1743; for the year ending June 30, 1904, \$0.183.

The average cost of clothing for each member present was: For the year ending June 30, 1903, \$18.40; for the year ending June 30, 1904, \$19.58.

Members of the Home received pensions as follows: None, 52; \$6 per month, 69; \$8 per month, 172; \$10 per month, 101; \$12 per month, 489; \$14 per month, 19; \$16 per month, 5; \$17 per month, 24; \$20 per month, 1; \$22 per month, 1; \$24 per month, 1.

**Women's Department, Michigan Soldiers' Home.**—There were on the rolls of the women's building, June 30, 1902: In women's

building (except hospital floor), 34; on hospital floor, 22; absent on leave, 38; total, 94.

From June 30, 1902, to June 30, 1904, there have been: Admitted, 54; readmitted, 18; total, 72. Discharged, 28; summarily discharged, 3; dropped from rolls, 12; died, 22; total, 65.

Upon the rolls, June 30, 1904: In woman's building (except hospital floor), 33; on hospital floor, 21; absent on leave, 44; absent without leave, 3; total, 101. Total number admitted to women's building from date of opening to June 30, 1904, 271.

Pensions drawn by members of the women's building: \$8 per month, 26; \$12 per month, 13; none, 62; total, 101.

Status of the members of the women's building: Wives, 46; widows, 53; mothers, 2; total, 101.

The total number of deaths of members of the women's building since it was opened January 1, 1894, is 53.

The husbands of 37 of the wives are members of the Home, and 4 of the remaining 9 have at one time been, but are not now members of the Home.

Accompanying are the descriptive lists of the veteran members of the Home on this date and a list of the members of the women's building; also a list of the members of the Home and of the women's building who have died in the two years covered by this report.

Respectfully submitted,

E. B. TAYLOR,

Adjutant.

The sanitary regulations established by the Board of Managers are faithfully enforced. The inspection of food and cooking, of the dining rooms and kitchens, the examination of milk and a general oversight of all that in any way affects the health of the members of the Home receive scrupulous attention. Every man is required to have a bath immediately on arrival, and once a week thereafter unless excused by the Surgeon.

Up to November 1, 1904, 4,378 veterans of different wars, and 279 widows, wives and mothers had been admitted to the Home.

#### **“The Jail.”**

One corner of the old Court House on the Public Square, which was built in 1838, constituted the first jail for Kent County. The building burned in 1844, and for ten years afterwards quarters

at different places were rented from time to time for a jail. For several years a cellar on the east side of Canal street, between Lyon and Pearl streets, was used as a jail.

In May, 1851, the county advertised for bids to build a jail and sheriff's residence, which resulted in a residence and jail being erected on Front street, south of Bridge street, which was used from January, 1855, to March, 1872, when the present jail was completed and occupied.

In January, 1869, the Board of Supervisors voted to purchase for a jail site, Block 1 of the Island addition, for \$4,500. It was originally Island No. 2, which was purchased from the government in 1841 by Louis Campau. At the spring election of 1870 the county voted \$40,000 to build a jail. In June following the Board of Supervisors appointed a committee to procure plans and specifications and report at the October following. At the October term the plans and specifications presented by J. B. Dibble were accepted and adopted. A building committee was appointed as follows: Isaac Hayes, Arthur Wood, Foster Tucker, E. A. Hibard and Robert Hunter. The building committee awarded the contract for building the jail to Davidson Farr & Co. for \$35,000. The total cost of site, building, grading and extras was about \$50,000. It was first occupied in March, 1872, during the term of Sheriff Jesse F. Wyckoff. Since then there have been extensive additions and improvements.

#### **Police Headquarters.**

The police headquarters of the city since the organization of the police department have had fewer changes and migrations than any other department of the city government. After the department was organized in 1871 the headquarters were at the corner of Monroe and Ionia streets until June, 1882, when they were removed to the corner of Lyon and Campau streets, where they remained until July, 1892, when they were removed to their present quarters.

The present police headquarters are located at the northeast corner of Crescent avenue and Ottawa street, upon lots 129 and 138 of the Kent Plat. The city purchased the site March 11, 1890, for \$12,000.

The building is constructed after plans prepared by E. E.

Myers, architect, of Detroit, Mich. The structure is of white brick with stone trimmings above the basement; the basement is faced with rock-faced stone in courses. This basement contains two cell rooms, turnkey's rooms, boiler and wagon rooms. This latter room is connected with the barn where provision is made for eight horses.

The first story contains the general office, rooms for superintendent, captain and lieutenant, detectives, clerk of court, police judge, court room, jury, witness and ladies' rooms.

The second story has an office and session room for the board of police and fire commissioners, sergeants' and detectives' rooms, patrolmen's dormitory and other rooms.

The third story contains matron's and janitor's rooms, two store rooms and drill rooms.

General Dimensions.—South front, 73 feet 8 inches; west front, 88 feet 8 inches. The barn, 36 x 38 feet 8 inches.

The contract for constructing the building was awarded June 27, 1891, to C. F. W. Gentz for \$40,784, and was completed and occupied July, 1892.

The contract for steam heating was awarded to Weatherly & Pulte, June 27, 1891, for \$2,190.

Sproul & McGurrian were awarded the contract for plumbing headquarters and the barn, June 27, 1891, for the sum of \$1,025.

Sidewalks around the building were laid by the Granite Stone Company, for \$807.75, on a contract awarded April 2, 1892.

The contract for concrete floors in the turnkey's and cell rooms was awarded the Asbestine Stone Company, for \$345.

The wiring for electric lighting was done by Harnish & Champlin at a cost of \$774.

The iron cells of the building were constructed by the Champion Iron Company, of Kenton, Ohio, for \$1,212.

The contract for appliances for electric lighting of the building was awarded to the Edison General Electric Company, on March 16, 1892, for \$870.

The contract for furnishing furniture to the building was given to Nelson, Matter & Co., on May 10, 1892, for \$2,486.

The building was constructed under the auspices of the Board of Public Works, but the furniture was furnished by the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners.

**Engine Houses.**

Engine House No. 1, at 49 LaGrave street, was erected in 1868. It is valued at \$7,000.

Engine House No. 2, at 220 Barclay street, was built in 1879. It is valued at \$9,252.08.

Engine House No. 3, at the corner of North Front and Second streets, was completed in 1887. It is valued at \$13,000.

Engine House No. 4, at the northeast corner of Kent street and Crescent avenue, was rebuilt in 1876. It is valued at \$17,500.

Engine House No. 5 is located at the southwest corner of Canal and East Leonard streets and was built in 1879. It is valued at \$10,385.15.

Engine House No. 6 is located at the junction of Grandville and Ellsworth avenues and was erected in 1877. It is valued at \$7,781.05.

Engine House No. 7 is on the east side of Madison avenue just south of Fifth avenue. W. G. Robinson was the architect, C. H. Pelton & Co. were the contractors. It was built in 1891, and the contract price was \$7,250. The department took possession of the building in December, 1891. It is valued at \$8,775.

Engine House No. 8 is at the corner of South Jefferson and Veto streets and was built in 1883. It is valued at \$8,176.

Engine House No. 9 is at the corner of West Leonard and Quarry streets. It was built in 1891. The architect was W. G. Robinson. The contractors were C. H. Pelton & Co., and the contract price was \$7,200. It was put in commission December 7, 1891 and is valued at \$8,750.

Engine House No. 10 is at the southwest corner of Hall and South Ionia streets. It was erected by James Curtis, contractor, in 1896. The contract price was \$7,070. Wm. Williamson was the architect. It was put in commission in 1898 and its valuation is \$8,800.

Engine House No. 11 is at the southwest corner of South Diamond street and Chester avenue. The architects were Williamson & Crow. The contract for the building of No. 11 was awarded June 24, 1901, to Hayden, Appleyard & Co., for \$8,300. It was completed in 1902, and the same year the department took possession. It is valued at \$9,800.

The entire property and apparatus of the Fire Department is invoiced at \$220,967.86.

## CHAPTER XXXV.

### THE WATER SCANDAL.

From 1900 to 1906, Grand Rapids occupied public attention because it had a municipal scandal equaling and in many respects surpassing those of St. Louis, Minneapolis, Chicago, Philadelphia and New York. It would be a bold novelist who would write up a conspiracy with ramifications and complications like that revealed by judicial inquiries in Grand Rapids. There was nothing peculiar or extraordinary about Grand Rapids, its people or its social and political conditions which led up to the water deal scandal. The city had good schools and large, active church organizations. No city had more or better managed charity, benevolent and fraternal societies. The city was progressive, busy and prosperous, and in private business always demanded and maintained a high standard of morality, but in civic affairs the people for a time were loose and lax. They did not require or apparently expect honesty and integrity in political or official life. In public affairs men of high standing for years sanctioned, encouraged and participated in shady transactions which they would instinctively have scorned and heartily condemned in business. This double standard of morality, a high one for business and a low one in politics, at last brought sorrow and disgrace to the city.

The water deal scandal could not be charged to partisan politics. Grand Rapids was never under the complete control of one political party for any great length of time. The city administration frequently shifted from the control of one party to that of another. At no time did one party have complete control of all the city offices for more than two consecutive years. No political party could claim all the virtue or disclaim all the evil in Grand Rapids municipal affairs, or avoid all responsibility in the water scandal. Bad and weak men were found in all parties. Prior to the consummation of the water scandal and leading up to it, the city had some peculiar experiences which disclosed a morbid sentimentality among the people and a weakness in the civic conscience. Within a few years the city had three defaulters among its officials who not only escaped punishment but were rewarded for their acts. In 1891 the city treasurer for the four preceding years was re-elected for a third term. Soon after his election, while he was absent from the city for several weeks, an



investigation was had of his official accounts under the direction of the mayor. He was found to be a defaulter for about \$16,000. In 1888, while city treasurer, he had been chairman of the Democratic congressional committee. There was an exciting campaign, and during an emergency in the contest he used the city funds to help his party. His candidate was defeated. He continued in office for three years after, when, his defalcation being discovered, he was removed from his office. His bondsmen put up the money for his peculations, and no prosecution was had or attempted, which the public approved, because he did not intend to do anything bad; he had only borrowed money which he found himself unable to pay when the day of settlement came. After his removal from office he engaged in business and prospered. Apparently his escapade in politics aided his success and enhanced his standing in the community.

In 1899 another city treasurer went out of office after serving two years. While arranging his office for his successor the cash was found short about \$13,500. He had used the city's money in private business and was unable to make settlement; his friends and bondsmen made up the deficit. He had an excellent reputation. He was a successful politician, and had been mayor of the city before he was elected city treasurer. The public said it would be a shame to make trouble for him because another had done the same thing and been honored. He escaped scot free, and a short time afterwards was appointed to a clerkship in the Board of Public Works.

In 1899 a successor was elected for the city clerk. The outgoing officer was a Republican and a good fellow, but after getting into office he had acquired expensive tastes and habits which his official salary could not support. He borrowed city money which he could not repay when the day of settlement came. His friends and bondsmen paid the price. The ex-official was tried for embezzlement. He made no defense, but his counsel argued to the jury that he ought not to be convicted because the city had lost nothing and others had done the same thing and prospered. The jury refused to convict until ordered to do so by the court. His case was appealed and sent back for a new trial by the appellate court. It was again tried, and no defense was made, but after the same arguments by his counsel, the jury disagreed. Public opinion then said that further prosecution would

be persecution. It was even intimated that the officers and court were inspired by unworthy motives. He finally went into court and pleaded guilty, and was let go on suspended sentence. Public sentiment seemed to commend the leniency. No Grand Rapids newspaper approved, and few citizens countenanced the prosecution of the ex-city clerk.

In 1900, while the water conspiracy was in an incipient state, Grand Rapids had an exciting political canvass which demoralized politics and doubtless accelerated the corruption which followed. The three leading candidates for the republican nomination for governor were rich men, and each needed the delegates from Grand Rapids to make a proper showing in the state convention. All engaged campaign managers and spent money freely for political influence and votes. By common report, an unsuccessful candidate spent nearly \$40,000 in the city, and the successful one certainly did not spend any less. Votes and delegates were treated like merchandise. None of the candidates was a resident of Grand Rapids, and at home all were honorable men, active in religious, educational and philanthropic work, but the inordinate use of their money in Grand Rapids for political honors undoubtedly prostituted the town and prepared the way for the briber and the conspirator.

In 1899, during the second year of George R. Perry's first term as mayor, Lant K. Salsbury was elected city attorney by the common council of Grand Rapids. At first he was opposed by the mayor, who had another candidate, but after becoming city attorney he was taken into the mayor's confidence and became a member of his political cabinet. Salsbury was a young and successful attorney with a penchant for politics. He was brought up on a farm a few miles from Grand Rapids. After finishing school and being admitted to the bar, he came to the city and soon became connected with a law firm having a good business. His characteristics were not those of a profound jurist, but he quickly developed a genius for business ventures and obtaining law business for his firm. Ambitious for wealth and position, he was not, to those who knew him well, considered over-scrupulous in means and methods for achieving success. When elected city attorney he stood well, and had excellent prospects. Magnetic and engaging in manner, he was personally popular and easily made friends. He thoroughly understood men, their

motives, their dispositions, their characters and their weaknesses.

Among his business associates was S. V. McLeod, paying teller and bookkeeper of the Old National Bank, the oldest financial institution of the city, and at that time he was also acting as manager of the Grand Rapids clearing house. Soon after Salsbury was elected city attorney, he and McLeod sustained some losses in a business venture, and under the influence of Salsbury, McLeod took money from the bank to recoup. Afterwards McLeod took more money and gave it to Salsbury to speculate in wheat, but the market went against them, and the defalcation in the bank soon amounted to nearly \$30,000. Such was Salsbury's condition when the Grand Rapids water deal commenced.

Among Mayor Perry's personal and political friends was Thomas F. McGarry, a Grand Rapids attorney, who was reputed to have excellent business and financial connections outside the city. He was a clever genius, and had a well-earned reputation for promoting. At home he was believed to have great influence abroad, and abroad he was believed to have great influence at home. In April, 1900, G. H. Garman, a New York adventurer, having heard that Grand Rapids was a liberal town, presenting an inviting field for corporate and municipal finance, wrote the mayor stating he knew parties desiring investment who wished to build and equip a plant for bringing water from Lake Michigan to the city of Grand Rapids. The mayor replied, inviting him to come to Grand Rapids and place his proposal before the city authorities. Shortly after Garman sent R. A. Cameron to Grand Rapids to look over the ground and open negotiations. Cameron commenced operations by going to McGarry, to whom he had letters of introduction, and whose close relations with the mayor were known in New York. After sparing over terms, a bargain was struck by which McGarry, for a consideration, undertook to work up the scheme and get a franchise for the proposed water company. The first step was to send for Salsbury, with whom he had been on terms of intimacy since they both had become members of the mayor's political cabinet. Salsbury was in financial straits and needed more than \$30,000 to pay his debts and square McLeod's shortage at the bank, which was liable to be discovered at any time. Consequently he struck high and demanded \$100,000 for securing the necessary influences. Apparently his price did not in the

least stagger the promoters. In June Garman came to Grand Rapids and took personal charge of matters. On June 22d he paid McGarry \$1,000 as a retainer. On July 5th, H. A. Taylor, a New York capitalist, who was to finance the scheme, came to Grand Rapids, and two days after paid McGarry \$25,000, of which \$17,500 was immediately turned over to Salsbury, and \$7,500 was kept by McGarry. July 25th Taylor sent \$75,000 more to Grand Rapids, which was delivered to McLeod as custodian.

The corruption fund was now in hand and the conspirators ready to do business. According to confessions subsequently made the money was soon in circulation. The forces and influences to be considered and controlled for the success of the conspiracy were the mayor, the city attorney, the city clerk, the aldermen, the board of public works and the general public, and later on members of the legislature, should legislation become necessary for success.

The public could be lulled and convinced by the press. There were then three daily newspapers in the city—two morning and one afternoon. The afternoon paper was the *Evening Press*, which was independent in politics. The manager was a gentleman who stood high in the community and took an active part in church, educational and benevolent organizations. The paper largely partook of the character and reputation of the manager who was supposed to be above reproach and approach. It had seldom taken sides in partisan politics, and always claimed to discuss municipal affairs from the vantage ground of morality and the public good. The *Grand Rapids Herald* had a large circulation in the city and was the leading Republican paper of Western Michigan. The manager for many years had been an important factor in Michigan politics. He had been an alderman of the city, a member of the Republican state central committee, chairman of the Republican congressional committee, and at that time was a member of the National Industrial Commission. The other morning paper was the *Grand Rapids Democrat*, the leading Democratic paper in Western Michigan. A majority of its stock was owned and controlled by Perry, McGarry and Salsbury. It was the administration organ.

According to his confessions, Salsbury, soon after the Taylor money came under his control, paid \$13,750 to the manager of

the Democrat, \$10,000 to the manager of the Herald, and \$5,000 to the manager of the Evening Press; he also paid a reporter who did the City Hall, \$500 for giving the public proper news.

About the same time Salsbury also claimed to have bought up sixteen out of the twenty-four aldermen of the city, by paying each from \$200 to \$1,000, and promising more money and stock in the water company when it should be organized. The purchased aldermen belonged to both political parties. He claimed to have paid the mayor \$13,725, and a member of the Board of Public Works \$500; the other members of the board were supposed to be favorable to the scheme out of friendship to the administration.

He also claimed to have paid the city clerk \$1,500 for his aid to the scheme, and later, claims to have paid a state senator \$200 to introduce a bill into the legislature which would aid the conspiracy.

During the year 1900 there were many rumors of a corrupt water deal, but no authentic news appeared until February 21, 1901, when Grand Rapids was startled by Associate Press dispatches, stating that Lant K. Salsbury, the city attorney, had been indicted by a Chicago grand jury on the charge of robbing the Bartons, who were Omaha capitalists, of \$50,000, which had been placed in a drawer of a safety vault in Chicago as a fund for working up a water deal in Grand Rapids, and that the money had been taken from the drawer by Salsbury and brought to Grand Rapids. Salsbury was arrested, gave bail, and the case is still pending in the Chicago court, but will probably never be tried, as it is understood that Salsbury returned the money and that the victims will never appear against him.

On February 25, 1901, a resolution was offered in the Grand Rapids common council, by an alderman not implicated in the conspiracy, asking the circuit judges to call a grand jury for investigating the alleged water deal. It was carried with but a single dissenting vote. In May, 1901, the new city council, which was Republican, met for the first time. Lant K. Salsbury, a Democrat, with an indictment hanging over his head, was by secret ballot re-elected city attorney. The next day a grand jury was called in Grand Rapids. It was in session for several weeks, and the testimony of many witnesses was taken. Indictments were returned against Salsbury, McLeod, McGarry, Taylor and

Gerrit H. Albers. Gerrit H. Albers was an attorney who was alleged to have incidentally, at the instigation of Salsbury, attempted to bribe an alderman in the autumn of 1900. All were arrested, and all gave bail.

At the following term of court Salsbury was tried, and on December 4, 1901, was convicted after a trial of many weeks filled with exciting and dramatic incidents. Garman and Cameron, having been promised immunity from punishment, were witnesses for the prosecution. A great array of legal talent appeared for the defense. During the trial an alleged attempt was made to bribe Garman to give false testimony. One thousand two hundred fifty dollars was produced in court as the price to be paid for the perjury, for which no claimant has ever appeared, although the money at this writing remains in the hands of the prosecuting officers. According to the testimony of Garman and the confessions of Salsbury, the bribing was directed by Nichols and McKnight, attorneys for the defense. During the entire trial Salsbury remained city attorney. His office was on the same floor as the court room and adjoined that of the judge of the court. Every move of the prosecuting officers, court, jury and witnesses was under the surveillance of Salsbury and his associates.

On conviction Salsbury promptly resigned as city attorney and appealed his case to the supreme court for review. On October 25, 1903, nearly two years after the trial, the supreme court affirmed Salsbury's conviction.

On December 31, 1901, McLeod is said to have confessed to the prosecuting attorney all he knew concerning the water deal. In February, 1902, H. A. Taylor, the New York capitalist, was tried and convicted of conspiracy in the water deal. The next month he virtually confessed his guilt in court and was sentenced to pay a fine of \$2,000. It was promptly paid, and he quickly departed from Grand Rapids, where he had left at least \$102,000 of his wealth.

At the October term, 1901, of the United States court at Grand Rapids, Salsbury and McLeod were indicted for violating the federal banking law. While carrying the shortage at the bank McLeod, under the direction of Salsbury, had falsified his books and accounts. At the March term, 1902, both pleaded guilty and were sentenced to two years each in the Detroit House of Cor-

rection. They served their sentences, made all good time possible, and on November 5, 1903 were released from prison.

In the meantime Thomas F. McGarry, on June 10, 1902, was convicted of bribery in the Allegan circuit, his case having been removed from Grand Rapids because a jury could not be obtained in the city. His case was appealed to the supreme court, where the conviction was affirmed on April 5, 1904. Soon afterwards he was sentenced to the Ionia prison for four years. In December, 1904, an effort was made to obtain a pardon for him. The pardon board sat in Grand Rapids for several days taking testimony and hearing arguments, but the application was denied. Many citizens appeared before the board and expressed their views upon the propriety and expediency of a pardon.

In November and December, 1902, George E. Nichols, the attorney for Salsbury, who is alleged to have attempted to bribe Garman during the Salsbury trial, was tried in Ottawa county, because no jury could be obtained in Grand Rapids. He was acquitted. In May and June, 1903, Gerrit H. Albers, an attorney of Grand Rapids, who, under directions of Salsbury, is alleged to have attempted to bribe an alderman during the autumn of 1900, was tried and acquitted.

After Salsbury had served his sentence for violating the federal banking law, which was reduced by good time, and his conviction in the state court for receiving a bribe had been affirmed by the court of last resort, he was notified to appear before the state court for sentence.

After twenty months of prison life and with prison doors opening to receive him again, probably for a term of many years, Salsbury's superb nerve gave way, and he went with his attorney to the prosecuting attorney's office and freely and fully confessed everything he knew concerning the water scandal, and all people implicated in it. It is claimed that in his confession were mingled many falsehoods that apparently implicated many innocent men.

From the confessions of Salsbury that appeared which had been suspected from the beginning, viz., that there were several different water deals being worked at the same time by Salsbury and his confederates, some of whom were in on one deal and some on another, with no one but Salsbury in on them all. There was the original deal worked up by McGarry, to which Taylor

contributed \$100,000. Nearly all arrests made were of those connected with that deal. There was the deal in which the Bartons of Omaha were interested and for the promotion of which they placed \$50,000 in the drawer of a Chicago safety vault, taken by Salsbury, for which he was first arrested. No further arrests were made in that matter.

There was the Hydraulic Water Company deal, in which several local and New York capitalists were interested, and for which Senator Burns is alleged to have introduced a bill into the legislature. But one arrest was made in that matter.

There was an alleged deal in which Samuel M. Lemon, collector of internal revenue, Wm. H. Anderson, president of the Fourth National bank, and George R. Perry, the mayor, were interested. According to Salsbury's confessions, Lemon secured Perry by the use of money, and negotiated with Salsbury to buy up the common council. No arrests were ever made in that matter, because it rested entirely upon the word of Salsbury.

There was the so-called Bailey Springs project. It was alleged that Mayor Perry and other officials ostensibly supported this project for the sole purpose of extorting money from those interested in other deals. No corruption fund appeared in that deal.

It was alleged that some capitalists from Indianapolis and Milwaukee investigated Grand Rapids as an inviting field in which to plant wealth with a view of returns in the way of valuable franchises. This scheme probably did not pass the stage of negotiations.

After Salsbury's confession the prosecuting attorney issued warrants, and fourteen aldermen of the common council of 1900 were arrested—James O. McCool, Jacob P. Ellen, Peter DePachter, John Muir, Malachi Kinney, Adrian Schriver, John T. Donovan, Abraham Ghysels, James Mol, Charles T. Johnson, Reyner Stonehouse, Daniel E. Lozier, John McLachlan and Frank E. Slocum. Of these Schriver, Donovan, Ghysels, Stonehouse, McLachlan and Slocum pleaded guilty. Of the others some denied the charges and contested to the end; others admitted their complicity. Two aldermen of the council of 1900, alleged to be implicated, afterwards died. Corey P. Bissel, ex-member of the Board of Public Works, was arrested and pleaded guilty. Isaac F. Lamoreaux, ex-city clerk, was arrested and stood mute, but



did not deny that he received money in connection with the scheme. J. Russell Thompson, a city hall reporter, pleaded not guilty, but made a statement to the prosecuting officer of all he knew of the matter.

The three newspaper men, Burch, Conger and Sproat, were arrested and pleaded not guilty. Burch and Conger published statements emphatically denying all knowledge of the conspiracy.

Ex-Mayor Perry was arrested and pleaded not guilty. He indignantly denied complicity in the plot on December 21, 1903. On October 5, 1904, his trial began in the superior court. On December 1 the jury disagreed and were discharged.

David E. Burns, state senator from Grand Rapids, was arrested and denied the charge. On January 5, 1904, he pleaded not guilty in the superior court. On April 5, 1904, his trial commenced and on April 20 he was acquitted.

A warrant was issued for George E. Nichols on June 3, 1902, for inciting false testimony on the Salsbury trial. The cause was afterwards transferred to the Ottawa circuit where he was tried and acquitted. He was afterwards arrested for perjury and on April 12, 1904, was arraigned and stood mute, and a plea of not guilty was entered by the court. In April, 1905, the cause was transferred to the Barry circuit, where the cause was afterwards dismissed.

Wm. F. McKnight, ex-prosecuting attorney, and prominent in public affairs, was arrested for attempted bribery of Garman in the Salsbury trial. William Leonard was under arrest for four years for complicity in the same transaction. They denied knowledge of the attempted bribery.

After the arrest of his alleged confederates, Salsbury for weeks and months was on the witness stand at hearings before the examining magistrate and trials in court. He was repeatedly cross-examined by skillful lawyers, but he seemingly stood the test. Unhesitatingly and readily answering all questions and apparently attempting to shield no one, least of all himself, he made a good impression as a witness. He confessed not only the details of the original water conspiracy, but concerning other deals and attempts at corruption during his term of office as city attorney. According to his story, he and his associates controlled every influence that money could buy. They owned the newspapers, they

owned the common council, they had daily reports from the grand jury room after each session. They had agents and emissaries next to witnesses and jurors in Salsbury's trial. They were after the state legislature. They had thousands of dollars in hand and more in sight. Capitalists interested in franchises were eagerly bidding for the support of the ring.

If the conspiracy had succeeded and any one of the contemplated water deals been consummated, Grand Rapids would have had a debt of millions, for which little or no value would have been received. Each scheme was to bond the city for millions in excess of the cost of a water plant.

Salsbury convinced the prosecuting officers of his truthfulness and sincerity in his confessions, but the general public hesitated to believe his story in its entirety and were inclined to withhold judgment until the guilt or innocence of the accused was established in a court of justice.

Salsbury's confessions were appalling, and revealed the civic and moral degradation of Grand Rapids, if, as he said, at one time a majority of the city officials were malefactors, the city newspapers were controlled by conspirators, many citizens of high standing were corruptionists, and even the courts of justice were debauched.

It was not alone Grand Rapids officials, but the nation, which was indicted by the revelations in the water scandal. It appeared that capitalists at the financial centers of the country were anxious to spend their money for bribes to fasten upon Grand Rapids franchises reeking with fraud, corruption and crime. They readily placed their money with strangers, who they knew must be criminals, for a chance to obtain desirable franchises. So it must have been that such things were common in financial circles at that time and that such conspiracies were frequently and successfully consummated in other cities. The Grand Rapids water scandal was a sad commentary on American municipal affairs.

On November 23, 1903, Alderman Schriver pleaded guilty to accepting a bribe, and on April 29, 1905, he was sentenced to pay a fine of \$100, which was paid.

On December 5, 1903, Alderman Donovan pleaded guilty to accepting a bribe and on April 29, 1905, he paid a fine of \$200.

On December 5, 1903, Alderman Ghysels pleaded guilty to

1903  
1905

accepting a bribe and on September 24, 1904, he paid a fine of \$300.

On December 5, 1903, Alderman Stonehouse pleaded guilty to accepting a bribe, and April 29, 1905, paid a fine of \$100.

On December 21, 1903, Alderman Lozier pleaded guilty and paid a fine of \$500 on April 22, 1905.

Alderman McLachlan pleaded guilty on December 5, 1903, and paid a fine of \$200 on April 22, 1905.

Alderman Slocum pleaded guilty on December 5, 1903, and on September 17, 1904, paid a fine of \$500.

Clark E. Slocum was charged with accepting a bribe; on December 5, 1903, he pleaded guilty, and on September 17, 1904, he paid a fine of \$500.

Daniel E. Lozier was charged with accepting a bribe. On December 21, 1903, he pleaded not guilty, but on January 25, 1904, he changed his plea to guilty, and on April 22, 1905, paid a fine of \$500.

Alderman McCool on December 21, 1903, pleaded not guilty. On January 21, 1904, he changed his plea to guilty. On September 17, 1904, he paid a fine of \$500.

Alderman Ellen was arraigned on January 11, 1904, and stood mute. His trial commenced the same day and on January 20 he was convicted. His case was appealed, but on October 22 his conviction was affirmed by the supreme court. On January 30, 1905, he paid a fine of \$500.

Corey P. Bissell on December 5, 1903, pleaded guilty and on April 29, 1905, paid a fine of \$400.

Gerret H. Albers was arrested for perjury on his own trial. On December 11, 1903, a complaint was filed against him for perjury and on the 21st he pleaded not guilty. On January 22, 1904, his trial commenced in the superior court, and on the 26th he was convicted. The case was appealed and on October 27 a new trial was granted by the supreme court.

On December 11, 1903, a complaint was filed against Isaac F. Lamoreaux, Eugene D. Conger, J. Clark Sproat, J. Russell Thompson and Charles S. Burch, charging them with conspiracy. On the 21st all appeared in the superior court and pleaded not guilty, except Lamoreaux, who stood mute, and a plea of not guilty was entered for him. On January 21, 1904, he changed his plea to guilty, but he was not sentenced.

A motion was made for separate trials and on May 23, 1904, the trial of Conger was begun in the superior court, and on June 16 the jury was discharged, being unable to agree. On March 16, 1905, the Conger case was transferred to the Kent circuit court.

On April 4, 1905, his second trial commenced in the circuit court and on May 4 a verdict of not guilty was rendered.

James Mol was arraigned for accepting a bribe on December 21, 1903. On February 2, 1904, his trial began and on the 6th he was found guilty, but on appeal to the Supreme Court a new trial was granted. He was tried again in September, 1905, and acquitted.

The later developments in the water deal cases did not cause the intense excitement that the earlier matters did, and yet public interest was sustained to the last.

On Saturday, February 10, 1906, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Charles E. Word went into the superior court of Grand Rapids and moved to dismiss all the water deal cases. The formal motion was substantially as follows:

"I move the court for permission to enter a nolle prosequi in the case of the People vs. George R. Perry, and, as I can see no reason if this be done why the other cases should be prosecuted, and as the reasons apply as well to one of these cases as well as another, I move that one and all the cases growing out of and connected with said water deal transaction, be dismissed in the same manner.

"In doing this I wish distinctly to repudiate the thought that the expense of these trials is a valid reason for their discontinuance, or the poverty of Mr. Perry or any other respondent, for the postponement or dismissal of his case.

"To legally recognize expense as a reason for not prosecuting offenders would be nothing less than to stultify the community through the action of its officials, and if the poverty of a respondent was a valid reason for a postponement or a dismissal, it would be a bar to nine-tenths of the criminal cases. However, the theory of the law is one thing and the actual trial of cases is another, and if the matter of expense, the poverty of a respondent or sympathy in his behalf, or any other of the many things that are always persistently urged, have gained such a foothold that a jury is not likely to agree upon a conviction, the practical

problem which presents itself to the prosecuting attorney and the court is the same as if this condition were based upon a valid instead of an invalid reason.

“Realizing the great importance of the motion now made, I request the court to give it careful and deliberate consideration, and to treat it in the nature of a request for advice and direction, with the full assurance to the court that I am ready at any moment to try any or all of said cases, if the judgment of the court should not accord with my own as to the advisability of the course here suggested.”

On February 19, 1906, the judge of the superior court granted the motion of the assistant prosecuting attorney, and the water deal cases, which for five years had made Grand Rapids famous in the land, had come to an end as far as the court records were concerned.

The following is a list of the cases, the defendants and the disposition of each, according to the court records:

Lant K. Salsbury, city attorney. Bribery and conspiracy. Fined \$2,000.

Thomas F. McGarry, attorney. Bribery and conspiracy. Sent to Ionia for four years. Paroled in the spring of 1906.

Stilson V. McLeod, banker. Bribery and conspiracy. Never tried.

Gerrit H. Albers, attorney. Bribery and conspiracy. Acquitted.

Henry A. Taylor, millionaire promoter. Conspiracy. Fined \$2,000.

George R. Perry, mayor. Bribery. Jury disagreed. Never retried.

Corey P. Bissel, member Board of Public Works. Bribery. Fined \$400.

Malachi Kinney, alderman. Bribery. Pled not guilty. Never tried.

David E. Burns, state senator. Bribery. Acquitted.

John Muir, alderman. Bribery. Pled not guilty. Never tried.

Peter De Pagter, alderman. Bribery. Pled not guilty. Never tried.

James Mol, alderman. Bribery. Convicted. Granted new trial. Acquitted.

Jacob P. Ellen, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$300.  
Abraham Ghysels, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$300.  
Clark E. Slocum, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$500.  
James O. McCool, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$500.  
John T. Donovan, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$500.  
Adrian Schriver, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$100.  
Charles T. Johnson, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$200.  
Reyner Stonehouse, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$100.  
Daniel E. Lozier, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$500.  
John McLachlin, alderman. Bribery. Fined \$200.  
Gerrit H. Albers, attorney. Perjury. Convicted. Granted new trial. Never tried.  
George E. Nichols, attorney. Perjury. Acquitted.  
William F. McKnight, attorney. Attempted perjury subornation. Never tried.  
E. D. Conger, newspaper publisher. Conspiracy. Tried and acquitted.  
C. S. Burch, newspaper manager. Conspiracy. Never tried.  
J. Russell Thompson, newspaper reporter. Never tried.  
Isaac F. Lamoreaux, city clerk. Pleaded guilty. Never sentenced.  
Ed. Wierenga, attempting to corrupt juror. Never tried.  
George E. Nichols, attorney. Perjury. Dismissed by court.  
William Leonard, bribery. Never tried.  
J. Clark Sproat, newspaper publisher. Conspiracy. Never tried.

In many respects the water deal conspirators and the Salsbury confessions were most remarkable. It seems incredible that he influenced the men he claims to have enticed into his schemes. They were among the most reputable citizens of Grand Rapids. Apparently their lives and characters were above reproach and approach, and yet, according to Salsbury they became conspirators to defraud their city and their fellow citizens. Men, however, who, before and after the water deal lived upright lives, did acknowledge that they were victims of his machinations and were corrupted by his influence.

On the other hand Salsbury withstood the tests of cross-examination by the most skillful lawyers of the state without his testimony being shaken in any important particular. If he did mix falsehoods with truth in his confessions he had a most won-

derful memory, and was utterly devoid of conscience in attempting to slander good men and destroy their reputations by perjury. In any view of the matter he was an intellectual and psychological wonder whose deeds, words and motives cannot be judged by ordinary standards. One thing is evident: his career made history in Grant Rapids.

The water deal conspiracy was unfortunate for the city and brought it an unenviable notoriety, but it worked for righteousness in civic affairs and for good morals in the community. Its revelations awakened an interest in public affairs and quickened the civic conscience. Its discovery brought many evils upon many good and innocent citizens, but resulted in much good for the city.

CHAPTER XXXVI.  
OUR CABINET MAKING INDUSTRY.

By Robert W. Merrill.

"These woods were first the seat of sylvan powers.  
Of nymphs and fauns and savage men who took their birth  
from trunks of trees and stubborn oaks."

"For when the world was new the race that broke  
Unfathered, from the soil or opening oak,  
Lived most unlike the men of later times."

It has been stated by popular authorities that there was no special reason for the establishment and development of the cabinet making industry at Grand Rapids. To the contrary notwithstanding, there appears to be many excellent reasons for its evolution at this point. Grand Rapids is situated in a locality where hard woods grew to the comparative exclusion of soft wood species. The early settlers having thrust upon them those things of greatest natural growth and plenty, turned the most favoring elements to the most valuable account.

The pines of Michigan are a survival from the Devonian age, being contemporaries of the Lycopods, the Sigillards and the Cycads, whose remains constitute our vast coal resources. They are the oldest living representatives of the forests of the ancient world. The pine is handicapped in the race of life because of its inability to reproduce itself with the vigor of other trees, "hence, the oaks have driven the pines to the sands," as have also other nut-bearing trees. Although inflowing streams of Grand river were bordered with a luxuriant growth of pine, nevertheless on the uplands and plains of the Grand river valley all varieties of hardwood timber grew to the comparative exclusion of other vegetation. "The oak being the most majestic of forest trees, and holding the same rank upon the plants of the temperate zone that the lion does among the quadrupeds, and the eagle among birds, is the emblem of grandeur, strength and duration of force that resists as a lion is the force that acts."

When in the development of the Grand river valley it became



necessary to clear the forest in order to cultivate the soil, the great problem confronting the pioneer was to find an advantageous market for the great wealth of hardwood timber. Pine being the most tractable for building of houses naturally went first; then followed the beech, maple, basswood, birch, ash, cherry walnut, hickory, elm, poplar and oak, none of which woods was a worthy competitor of the tractable pine in the house building.

When the natural advantage of hardwood timber was first appreciated, crude and small were the shops employed in working up this cheap material. In pioneer times much fine material was wasted. Even at this day may be found rail fences on Michigan farms composed of the finest quality of native black walnut. From their rich hardwood timbers our forefathers began to develop the most valuable products they could find a market for. Every farmer who cleared a patch of land had a burdensome quantity of hardwood logs to dispose of. Having no experience in art or producing artistic effects the cabinet makers of Grand Rapids could not use the wealth of materials at their doors. The cheapest of bedsteads and bureaus comprised almost the entire product of early days. Having no railway outlet, the market was limited and afforded to the manufacturer only the smallest price for articles of the crudest utility. With the opening of the country by railway connections, the possibilities of profit to those who might develop this industry attracted some eastern capital. Labor at this point was cheap. A fine water power had been early developed by canals opposite the rapids, and turbines turned wheels transmitted by wire cables the power required in several shops on either bank of the river run by shrewd pioneer cabinet makers. Soon the artistic side of cabinet making was considered.

The causes of success in cabinet making were carefully looked into. Gradually many plants secured the most competent and original designers available at home, and later on from other manufacturing centers, having a reputation for producing salable and desirable furniture.

At first nearly every cabinet shop had connected with it a saw-mill which reduced the logs to the proper dimensions and the lumber to the special thickness required. This sawmill business became an industry in many instances so closely allied to that it was a part of the cabinet shops. Experience rapidly developed

skill which soon made Grand Rapids a hard wood lumber center where large amounts of hard wood were used. Soon came the erection of buildings with the most approved methods for kiln drying and then vast stocks of choice cabinet woods were accumulated. The fine climate also stimulated the faculties of manufacturers to grasp every situation of advantage. Experience led to the production of superior patterns, and oftentimes a fine design commanded such high prices that to excel in design became a passion among furniture makers. As the industry developed every feature of outside competition was made an object of special consideration and compared with home products, and Grand Rapids did not suffer by comparison.

The finance of furniture manufacturing was an important part of the industry in early days. The bulk of the accumulating capital was derived from the profits of the business. Local banks encouraged the factory men and grew rich in so doing, for at an early day money was at a premium and interest rates were ten per cent, even on good security, which high rate was maintained for a long time until outside capital came and reduced the rates to the same as were enjoyed by manufacturing industries in large eastern cities. Credit also became an important factor, for glass and varnish could be bought on specially long time, and thus furnished temporary capital for the rapid turning over of the products.

At first special machines were comparatively few (aside from the saw, planer and sticker). The old time cabinet maker's equipment of hand tools for the making of every shape, assisted by hand carvers, stimulated wonderfully an entirely new field of ingenuity in wood working machinery. At first the preparation of the wood by dovetailing, veneering and smoothing was nearly all done by hand tools, but soon every conceivable shape was wrought by machines for moulding, smoothing, scraping, boring and routing. Automatic lathes supplanted hand tools for turnings; the wabble saw was used for automatically cutting the scoop from a chair seat; the automatic carving machines supplanted the laborious process of removing by hand superfluous wood preparatory to the final artistic touch of the hand tool, which infuses life into each upturned leaf as guided by the skilled carver; hand carved work which required all this labor of preparation cost so much as to be soon prohibitive for fine

effects and gradually gave way to the machines which resulted in the amplification of fine results. Machines were soon so extensively used as to require the employment of more hand carvers than at any previous period. The hand glue joint on long joints was long ago supplanted by the stroke jointer which was perfected mechanically to do accurate work. The ingenuity of the shaping of chair backs and legs by special machinery long ago revolutionized this particular industry. The finishing of the product from its condition in the white made the greatest strides of improvement from the original filler and pigment which filled the pores, to the finished product of the final hand polish, so acknowledged in superiority that it is quite incomparable to the products of olden days.

To accomplish all these results more than one generation of artisans in the furniture craft have here in Grand Rapids devoted themselves to the development of this special line of the industry, following on from father to son the craft here have assembled a community of mechanics who have become house owners, and so well established with the factories as not to practice or desire migration, because Grand Rapids is the most reliable market for the highest skill, affording the steadiest employment and the least loss of wages and time. In the entire world there is no better market for highly skilled finishers, because the industry of cabinet work as here produced ranks higher than all other furniture making centers, and has the necessary support of organization and capital to furnish constant employment.

There have been many instances when inexperienced adventurers, desirous of attempting to imitate the goods here, have offered sufficient inducements in wages and salaries to lure some of the unthinking mechanics of this city to new and untried towns, which did not have, like Grand Rapids, the complete organization of capital, plant, established market, railroad facilities and an entire community of skilled workmen in all departments of the business. Such furniture workers have generally returned to this developed market because of its reliability and stability.

The character of the work produced in Grand Rapids from an artistic point is zealously guarded; every factory exploits its successive ventures of style as a feeler in each of the two semi-annual markets, working the market up to the highest point of

art for which it is willing to pay, leaving above and beyond this a limitless possibility which has long been the playground for the most advanced designers, and which ground many shops dare not venture upon. This striving to excel and to draw away from the common things is the life-giving stimulus which has proved all absorbing, and has relieved much of the product of Grand Rapids from comparison with the products of other communities. When Grand Rapids excels in styles it has little to fear in a comparison of prices.

In creating the product for the market the business management operates carefully through the developing demand in the several markets where it sells its output, and sets its designing department to producing what each market invites. Right here comes in the keenest competition, because there is no community of interest between the manufacturers as to what any factory shall exploit, and as no successful understanding in this respect has ever been attempted, and no uniformity in the establishment of a basis of cost, or of asking price, there has always existed the freest kind of competition. A few of the strongest organizations have maintained for a long time successful competition on special lines, where difficult work was carried on, by the most strenuous artistic effects, and by keeping up all the manufacturing facilities to the most modern pitch of proficiency, regardless of cost of purchase, or of loss of what may have hitherto been used in the way of machinery. The constant introduction of the latest machines and special inventions to accomplish specific results and the constant discarding of obsolete machines is very expensive, as it carries with it an infinite variety of tools, but experience shows that those shops which cling to the old machines and ideas quickly drop into the rear ranks. When there is found a factory which is holding tenaciously on to an old machine because it once cost a large sum, regardless of its producing ability, that concern is bound to drop behind until it adopts the most modern methods. So rapidly have these improvements crept into the furniture business that every few years a revolution in machinery occurs. If any factory fails to attain to the highest standard of efficiency in acquiring the latest type of machines its relegation to the list of back numbers is established. So unique are many of these labor saving devices that frequently a machine costing a large sum is supplanted by another of lower

cost. Oftentimes the low cost machine does better and more efficient work. In such cases the supplanted inefficient machine has to be sold at its value for scrap iron, although it may have recently cost many hundreds of dollars. The best wood working machinery shops, being in a continuous stage of experimentation, the progressive manufacturer is constantly watching for any change which will reduce the cost of production. The special courage of manufacturers to pursue this continuous improvement is one of the most important factors in the development of the furniture industry. The possibility of finding a valuable device has brought out many special machines, also an infinite variety of tools. Success in producing such improvements has often enriched the inventor handsomely. By such methods rapid progress has resulted. The old time shop is distanced completely unless it expends a good portion of its income in constantly adding new and important features of beauty and adaptability. The modern cabinet maker is very far removed from what a cabinet maker of the pioneer period represented.

No country is too remote from market not to be utilized if it yields a sufficient quantity of timber suited for furniture purposes. As the native lumber is being used up the mahogany of Cuba, Central America and Southern Africa is streaming our way, for the ambition of Grand Rapids manufacturers embraces every avenue of possibility. Improved effects and beauty in figured woods appear to know of no limitations. All the attendant materials which enter into the product of furniture are undergoing the same revolutionary period as did the machinery department. At one period marble was a very large factor, and then gradually fell into almost total disrepute, and was discarded. Making glass, plain and beveled, making silvered mirrors, or making them leaded in many colors, and shaped by bends, has each been a most important attendant industry. Foreign and domestic competition, high tariff and low tariff, has each been experimented in continuously. Combinations and trusts have gained control, while independent factories, with natural gas, have evolved special machinery and devices which have played most important parts in this craft. The use of shellac, the gums for making varnish, the glue used, and the hardware, both special and ordinary, foreign and domestic, has kept pace with the new machines. The making of casters created an industry

which by itself made fortunes for its owners during the life of the Fox stem and plate patent. The locks, catches, escutcheons, knobs and handles have all received the greatest attention in detail of design and adaptation to the everchanging processes of style.

While manufacturers of finished woods have had the benefit of foreign and domestic experience in the application of wood fillers, shellac, varnish, etc., it seemed to remain for the manufacturers of Grand Rapids to exploit, advance and introduce the most of the beautiful and popular finishes used in this country. The antique effects in oak which makes it so closely resemble the old English cabinet work was first brought out in Grand Rapids, and has held generally acknowledged preferment as a color everywhere, and the same can be said of golden oak. The imitation of mahogany on birch and other woods, which are particularly popular. The peculiar underlying shades of Antwerp, of weathered oak and fumed oak have been the result of closest study in Grand Rapids factories, in the chemical preparation of the wood from the first point of receiving the color and the filler. The gray effects on maple, by the infusion of acid, and the blackening or whitening of curly and white maple is the result of the most skillful treatment in Grand Rapids factories. The delicacy of shade reached in the finish of mahogany, which must preserve the entire transparency of the original grain was found in Grand Rapids. It is maintained only by a careful study of the constant varying taste of the public and its approval is compelled by the strength and character of what Grand Rapids manufacturers have set as being the standards of shade and lustre.

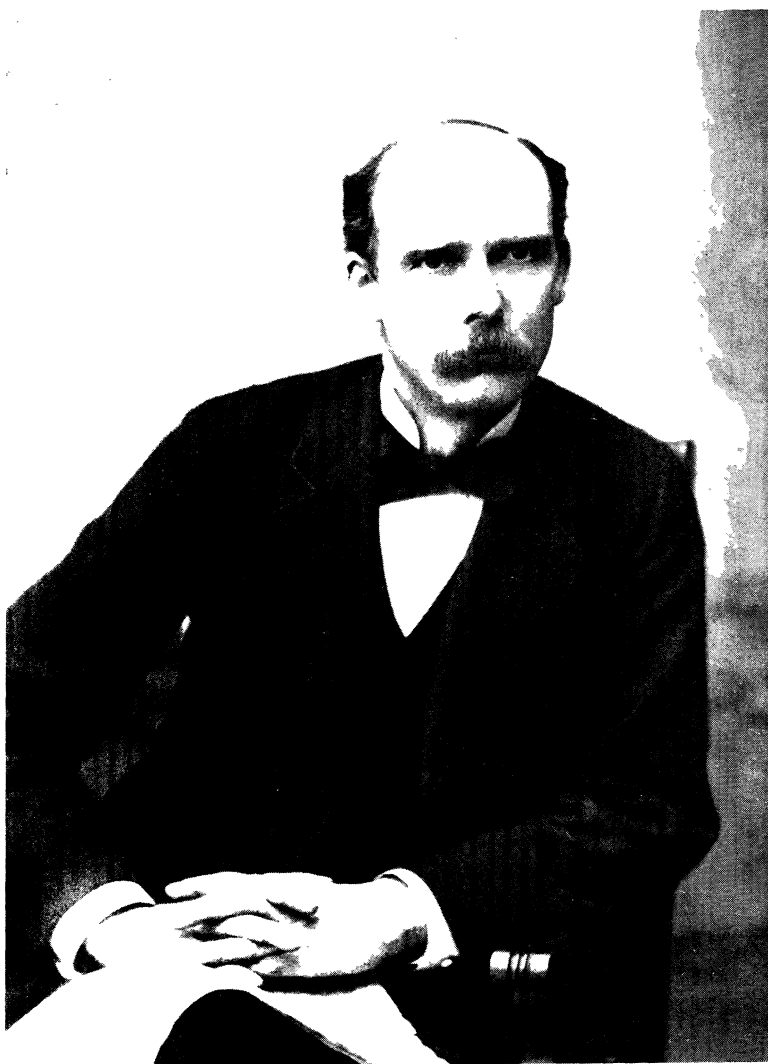
In all that goes to make a finished product from every intricate detail, through long years of practical experience, Grand Rapids manufacturers have made an indelible impress in the styles of cabinet work in the world and everywhere Grand Rapids furniture is recognized as superior.

**William Widdicomb** was born in Exeter, England, July 25, 1839. His father, George Widdicomb, was an old time cabinet maker and manufacturer with a decided tendency for mechanical invention, and some of this mechanical ingenuity was inherited by his son. The family migrated to the United States in 1842 and settled in Syracuse, N. Y. In that city the father

worked at furniture making, the son attended public school until the age of fifteen and then began work with his father at the trade of cabinet making. At the age of seventeen he came to Michigan expecting to obtain employment through the aid of a friend in a furniture factory at Battle Creek, but the enterprise had failed and the factory closed its doors before the young mechanic reached that town. He at once turned his steps to Grand Rapids, arriving in this city October 1, 1856, by the old Kalamazoo stage route, with 25 cents in his possession, which he had saved by not taking a dinner at the stopping place then known as Chambers Corners, for he realized that he must have enough to pay for a lodging when he reached Grand Rapids. He immediately obtained employment from E. W. & S. A. Winchester, furniture manufacturers, continuing with them for a year or two, and Mr. S. A. Winchester's kindness as an employer is still a pleasant memory.

The family arrived in Grand Rapids about January 1st and in due time all became identified with the furniture industry of this city. In 1858 the father started a small furniture factory at the east end of Bridge street bridge, which was destroyed not long after in the great Bridge street fire. With undiminished courage he resumed his venture and with the work of his sons soon re-established the small business. It was in this small venture that the son William appears as the first furniture salesman from Grand Rapids, for in 1859 he visited Milwaukee as a commercial traveler to assist in selling the product of this little factory. The little business progressed in a modest way until 1861, when the war enlisted all four of the sons and the business continued in a very precarious condition until it expired in 1864, for the sons had constituted substantially all the working force of the establishment.

Upon his return from the war Wm. Widdicomb obtained employment with C. C. Comstock and Comstock & Nelson, continuing with them until January 1st, 1865, when he opened for himself a very limited business upon the East Side Canal on the second floor of a small building where the New England Furniture Company is now located. The brother, Geo. Widdicomb, Jr., died at about the close of the war from disease contracted while in the army, and the other brothers, Harry Widdicomb and John Widdicomb,



*William Widdicombe.*





entered the business which was continued in a very modest way. All were skilled mechanics, possessing a thorough knowledge of the mechanical part of furniture manufacturing. The enterprise grew and in 1868 was moved to the corner of Fourth Street and the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad. Theo. F. Richards was admitted to partnership in 1869, adding to the enterprise a modest amount of capital, the firm name then being Widdicomb Brothers & Richards. The business grew rapidly for the next four years, and December 1st, 1873, was incorporated with a capital of \$150,000.00. Wm. Widdicomb, President; Theo. F. Richards, Vice President; John Widdicomb, Secretary and Harry Widdicomb, Treasurer.

In 1883 Wm. Widdicomb became cashier of the Grand Rapids National Bank, which position he held until 1888, resigning to give attention to his private business. In 1886 he erected the Widdicomb Building on the site of the old Rathbun House, corner of Monroe and Market Streets, which property he still owns. From 1885 to 1894 he was engaged in the wholesale grocery business as partner of Amos Musselman. While engaged as a wholesale grocer he did much to develop co-operation and association among the wholesale grocers of Michigan and adjacent States. In 1897 the business and finances of The Widdicomb Furniture Company having become somewhat embarrassed Wm. Widdicomb was requested by the shareholders and creditors to resume its management, and the business is once more an important factor in the furniture industry of this city.

As a manufacturer Mr. Widdicomb possesses marked ability and business traits which make him prominent in the furniture industry of this city; he has been successful in his efforts toward reviving the business of The Widdicomb Furniture Company and has again made the business a profitable enterprise. Among other traits he has the valuable faculty of organizing a force of workmen into a harmonious whole, and he is somewhat proud of the fact that in all his forty years of manufacturing he has never had any strike or other difficulty with the workmen he has employed. His mechanical ingenuity permitted him to invent novel devices and improvements in the labor saving machinery required in the conduct of the furniture business, yet he has never taken out any patents upon the devices which he has originated.

Mr. Widdicomb established the business of The Widdicomb

Furniture Company with the very modest capital of \$23.00 and has won his success through energy, business prudence and a persistent endeavor to manufacture furniture of good quality, and his efforts in this direction have been recognized in the very handsome business which The Widdicomb Furniture Company now possesses.

### **Furniture Making.**

The history of the growth of the material side of furniture making is as interesting as is that of the artistic side. The first furniture made in Grand Rapids was coarse and rough. Surrounded by great forests, the settler of the Grand River Valley hewed out his home, which was very simple in its interior; a rude bedstead brought from the far East was the most pretentious article of furniture, and in some of the cabins was supplemented by two or three splint bottom chairs. The rest of the furniture consisted of rude stools and benches hewed out by the good man's broadax, and these were the first pieces of furniture made along Grand River.

One by one the rude, home-made articles gave place to something better. At first these new pieces of furniture were made by cabinet makers in the far East and shipped by canal and lake to the mouth of Grand river, from whence they were brought in pole boats to the foot of the rapids. The old settlers concluded that this was too slow a process and prayed for the advent of a cabinet maker.

In 1836 William Haldane came from the East to make Grand Rapids his home, and opened a cabinet shop at the head of Justice street, where now is the Michigan Trust building. For many years he toiled at his trade. The furniture business had a veritable boom when Archibald Salmon came to the city, in 1837, and started a shop on Prospect Hill close to that of Mr. Haldane, after the latter had been established for nearly a year. Settlers kept coming to the city and a year or two later Samuel F. Butler arrived and set up a cabinet shop near where the Bridge Street house now stands. These furniture workers had a monopoly of the business until 1849, when Abram Snively arrived in town and set up a shop on Monroe street. Mr. Snively evidently found the business overdone, for he removed to Grandville and engaged in business in that town.

Deacon Haldane's business prospered, and in 1848 he built a shop on Canal street, the site being that of the present Weston building. He brought some machinery for making chairs from Ohio—a circular saw and a lathe. The factory gave employment to seven men at first, and this number was gradually increased. Cheap wooden chairs, bedsteads, tables and bureaus were turned out, and people came from Holland, Lowell, Grand Haven and other towns in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, bought their furniture and carted it home in rude lumber wagons. Money was a scarce article, and the farmers traded grain, eggs, pork and any produce they might have for their furniture, and in consequence the factory employes had to take the same kind of truck for their pay.

In 1854 Enoch W. Winchester was taken into partnership. They continued together for one year, and then Mr. Winchester withdrew and formed a partnership with his brother, S. A. Winchester. These brothers started a shop on the site of the Nelson-Matter Furniture company's warehouse, and their business formed the nucleus from which the present factory of that company has developed.

Mr. Haldane's next partner was a man named Abbott. Some time afterward Anson Norton purchased Abbott's interest and he in time sold out to Henry Jewett and bought a farm down the river near the Lake Shore crossing. Finally Mr. Haldane erected a substantial three-story block, adjoining the Pantlind hotel on the north. Finding that the rental of the building for store and office purposes would pay a better profit than his furniture trade Mr. Haldane retired from manufacturing.

A history of the furniture industry in Grand Rapids owes much to William T. Powers' part in its upbuilding. Mr. Powers was born in Bristol, Grafton county, New Hampshire, in the year 1820. When he was a boy seven years of age his father removed to Lansingburg, N. Y., and there he grew to manhood. In 1847 he came to Grand Rapids, arriving in the month of June. Being of a practical turn of mind he looked about to see what the people of the town most needed and he decided upon furniture. Early in 1848 he rented a room of James Scott, who operated a sash, door and blind factory where the Valley City mill now grinds its grist. Here Mr. Powers set up the most pretentious furniture factory the town had then seen. His machinery when

in place consisted of a turning lathe, a circular saw and a boring machine. The output of the factory was limited, and as the average citizen of those days was too tired to find fault with his bed when the time came to get into it, the styles were unpretentious and of little variety.

A ready market was found in the city for the furniture manufactured. In 1851 Mr. Powers entered into a partnership with E. Morris Ball, and the firm of Powers & Ball started out to do business on a more pretentious scale. They erected a two-story building 25x100 on Erie street, and this structure contained a saw mill for cutting cabinet stuff and their furniture factory. They made bedsteads, bureaus, bookcases and chairs and turned out considerable fancy-turned stuff.

Their business grew rapidly, and they managed to work up about 300,000 feet of lumber annually, and sell the manufactured articles for about \$33,000. That was considered a tremendous business in those days. There were no railroads, so that manufacturing for shipping abroad was out of the question. The firm, however, did manufacture a lot of chairs and turned stuff for buggies, which was shipped to Chicago by boat. They also made some of the woodwork for McCormick's reapers.

In those days the freight rates by water were governed only by the rapacity of the vessel owners, and the cost of transportation ate up the greater share of the profits. On this account the market for Grand Rapids furniture was limited to the surrounding towns and there was danger of overproduction. Deacon Haldane had opened a furniture store where the Weston building now stands on Canal street, and Powers & Ball had a salesroom nearly opposite. The firm afterward erected a two-story wooden building, 30x100 feet, on the site of the present arcade. It was built in 1854 and was burned a few years after. A large number of chairs were made, the cane seats and upholstered work being imported from Boston and New York. The force of men employed in the factory varied from thirty to forty. Mr. Powers decided to abandon the furniture business and engage in the manufacture of lumber, so in January, 1855, the partnership was dissolved. The furniture business was continued by the firm of Ball, Noyes & Colby.

Then came the panic of 1857, which paralyzed business. Ball, Noyes & Colby offered their plant to Mr. Powers. He purchased

it and continued to operate it until war time, when he gradually worked out of the business. He opened a furniture store in the Luce block and carried a stock worth \$30,000. Fancy mahogany goods were brought from the East and fine black walnut furniture was turned out at the factory. In this store he also carried a stock of mirrors, picture mouldings, and made mattresses and upholstered work. Since his retirement from the furniture business Mr. Powers has been engaged in many profitable enterprises.

When Enoch W. and S. A. Winchester embarked in the furniture business in this city, in 1855, they were full of hope for the future, but their most extravagant dreams of prosperity did not anticipate the mammoth business which was developed from their small beginning. They erected a two-story wooden building at the corner of Lyon and Campau streets, and did a fairly prosperous business for two years, and then came the panic of 1857. Like most of the business men of that time the Winchester brothers were crippled in the financial crisis and appealed to C. C. Comstock to buy them out. Mr. Comstock had done a prosperous sawmill business and he had made money out of a large sash and blind factory. He responded to the appeal of the Winchesters, feeling that he was safe in so doing, and bought them out in September of that year. Money matters were bad, but speedily grew worse, and before he realized it, Mr. Comstock himself was drawn into the maelstrom. But Mr. Comstock hung on manfully and after four years of hard struggle he won out. The days of wild-cat money were over and confidence in business relations was restored. In 1864 he established a branch house for the disposal of his furniture in Peoria, Ill., and sent large quantities of goods there. It is claimed that this was the first carload shipment of furniture from Grand Rapids. A trade was also built up in Milwaukee and Chicago.

In early days the furniture salesman would pack up a carload of goods and travel with it from town to town until he had peddled them out. As the business increased this method was found to be inconvenient. Elias Matter suggested that sketches of the articles would convey the idea of the style, and his suggestion was put in practice. Pencil sketches gave place to photography. Today all salesmen sell their wares by exhibiting

photographs, and commercial photography has become a profitable business.

In the fall of 1863 James M. and Ezra T. Nelson purchased a half interest in Mr. Comstock's factory and the firm was known as Comstock, Nelson & Co. Two years later Mr. Comstock disposed of the remainder of his interest, one-half of which was sold to James A. Pugh and Manley G. Colson, the latter being the foreman of his factory, and the other half was sold to his son, Tileston A. Comstock. At this time the firm name was reversed to Nelson, Comstock & Co. Another change took place in 1870, when Elias Matter, who had just severed his connection with Berkey Brothers & Co., purchased the younger Comstock's interest. The factory is now operated by the Nelson-Matter Furniture Company, of which William Barnhart is the president, Roy S. Barnhart, treasurer and James G. McBride, secretary.

Another of the pioneers in the furniture business of the city was George Widdicomb. He was born in Devonshire, England, and emigrated to this country in 1840, settling in Syracuse, N. Y. He worked there as a cabinet maker, and afterward engaged in business. Removing from Syracuse to Elmira and then to Havana, N. Y., he finally came west and settled in Grand Rapids in 1856. Here he worked at his trade in the Winchester Brothers' factory for more than a year, and then started in business on his own account. A shop was rented for a factory near the east end of Bridge street bridge. With his four boys, William, George, Jr., Harry and John, he commenced the manufacture of cheap furniture, and in the course of time a dozen other men were employed. From this factory Mr. Wm. Widdicomb went to Milwaukee to sell furniture, and claims the honor of being the first furniture commercial salesman from Grand Rapids. The firm also opened a retail store on the west side of Canal street between Huron and Erie streets. This store was kept open until 1863. The sign over the store was George Widdicomb & Sons. When the war broke out the two elder boys went to the front at the first call for troops. Harry and John followed one year later, and then Mr. Widdicomb retired from the furniture business. When the boys came home again they started a furniture shop just south of Bridge street on Canal, on the spot now occupied by the New England factory.

George Widdicomb, Jr., died in 1866 and that same year the

brothers bought a piece of land at the corner of Fourth and West Division streets and erected a building 40x50 feet and two and one-half stories high, in which the firm gave employment to about twenty-five men. January 1, 1869, Deacon Theodore F. Richards purchased an interest in the concern and the firm name became Widdicomb Bros. & Richards. The company was incorporated as the Widdicomb Furniture company December 1, 1873. Steadily and rapidly the factory developed, new building were added year after year as the demand for an increased production required until the plant assumed enormous proportions. The factory buildings, warehouses, finishing building, dry kilns, engine houses and other buildings cover several acres of ground, and between 700 and 800 men are employed in them. The annual output of the factory amounts to more than \$800,000. The present officers of the company are Wm. Widdicomb, president; Roger W. Butterfield, vice-president, and George R. Widdicomb, treasurer.

#### **Berkey and Gay Furniture Company.**

In 1859 Julius Berkey, with James Eggleston, in a small shop on Erie street, made sash, doors and blinds, under contract. Being a skillful mechanic, he also manufactured quartette stands, which sold readily. About this time William A. Berkey began the erection of a sash, door and blind factory on Mill street, opposite Hastings, and in the summer of 1860 Alphonso Ham and Julius Berkey were using a portion of the second floor of that building for furniture making. In the following winter Berkey sold his interest to his partner, who soon closed it out. In April, 1861, Mr. Berkey started in again at the same place, and continued the business alone till November, 1862; thus practically laying the foundation for the Berkey & Gay Furniture Company's factory, which now stands among the leading furniture factories in the United States. In November, 1862, Elias Matter, inventorying his tool chest at six dollars, and Julius Berkey with five dollars in cash and a few hundred dollars worth of machinery and materials, formed the partnership of Berkey & Matter, who turned their attention to manufacturing exclusively for the wholesale trade of Chicago and Milwaukee. Undoubtedly the honor of founding the wholesale furniture trade of Grand Rapids belongs to Julius Berkey. He first saw the possi-



bilities of manufacturing and selling furniture at wholesale from Grand Rapids. The venture proved profitable to himself and his associates. His early partner, Alphonso Ham was an enthusiastic believer in the future of Grand Rapids and was among the first to prophesy that Grand Rapids was destined to become a furniture city. October 5, 1863, Wm. A. Berkey took a half interest with the young firm, and it was changed to Berkey Bros. & Company, with a capital stock of \$17,215.33, including real estate and personal property, for the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds and furniture. In 1866 Geo. W. Gay purchased half the interest of Wm. A. Berkey and the firm name was again changed to Berkey Bros. & Gay. February 28, 1870, Mr. Matter retired. In January, 1873, Wm. A. Berkey withdrew. The Berkey & Gay Furniture Company proper was incorporated in August, 1873, with a capital stock of \$500,000 and has been practically under the same management ever since its organization, the present officers being: Julius Berkey, president; Wm. H. Gay, vice-president; George G. Whitworth, treasurer; John A. Covode, secretary. The office and salesrooms are at 174 to 180 Canal, on the corner of Hastings street.

**John A. Covode**, Secretary of the Berkey & Gay Furniture Co., was born in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, May 6th, 1853. He is of Quaker descent. His father was a member of Congress in ante-bellum days and as such became chairman of a committee which investigated affairs in Kansas. The report of that committee, called the Covode report, was a political and historical document of great importance half a century ago. John A. Covode was educated at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, with the class of '76.

In 1879 attracted by the beauties and advantages of Grand Rapids he located here and it has since been his home. Acquiring an interest in the Berkey & Gay Furniture Co., he became its Secretary and has since given his personal attention to the conduct of its affairs. He is President of the Kent County Savings Bank, Vice President of the Lemon & Wheeler Co. and has interests in the Oriel Cabinet Co., the Anti-Kalsomine Co., and various other stable business and financial institutions of the city.

In politics he is a Republican following the teachings of his boyhood days when his father was a party leader of Fremont



*John A. Corode.*



Republicans. His religious affiliations are with the Presbyterian church.

For many years his home has been on Sheldon street. Mr. Covode is an active force in the business and manufacturing interests of Grand Rapids.

#### **The Phoenix Furniture Company.**

In 1868 William A. Berkey was made assignee for Atkins & Soule, cabinet makers. In 1870 the premises were purchased by parties who organized the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, with a capital limited to \$100,000—president, Wm. A. Berkey; treasurer, Nelson W. Northrop; secretary, Grant McWhorter. For several years they did business in a small way at the corner of Ottawa and Fairbanks streets in the manufacture of miscellaneous furniture. Mr. Berkey retired from the firm of Berkey Bros. & Gay, January 1, 1873, and then devoted his energies to building up the new company which had been reorganized as the Phoenix Furniture Company, with a capital stock of \$200,000, to be increased as circumstances should render advisable. The officers were: Wm. A. Berkey, president; Wm. A. Howard, vice-president; L. D. Norris, secretary; W. D. Talford, treasurer. In the fall of 1872 ground was broken for the erection of a factory on a tract of about eight acres, at the corner of West Fulton and Summer streets, and by additions and extensions the present great plant has been established. Its officers are: President, C. C. Converse; vice-president, Frank Smith; secretary, R. W. Merrill; treasurer, D. W. Kendall. This mammoth institution has had a very successful career.

#### **School and Office Furniture.**

January 5, 1886, a partnership was formed between Gaius W. Perkins, William T. Hess and Seymour W. Peregrine, and a factory was started by them on the corner of Prescott and Ionia streets, for the manufacture of school and office furniture. May 8, 1887, Gaius W. Perkins, president; S. W. Peregrine, vice-president; Wm. T. Hess, treasurer, and Charles J. Reed, secretary, incorporated the Grand Rapids School Furniture Company, with a capital stock of \$100,000. Early in 1888 they purchased seven acres of land on the West Side and erected a new factory into which they moved August 1, 1888. Their plant is on

Broadway, between Ninth and Tenth. Its present manager is G. W. Perkins.

#### **Grand Rapids Chair Company.**

The Grand Rapids Chair Company was incorporated in October, 1872, by Henry Fralick, president; C. C. Comstock, vice-president, and F. W. Worden, secretary and treasurer; with a capital stock of \$300,000. Buildings were erected in that and the following year. The main factory was a four-story brick structure situated at 901 Canal street, above the Grand Trunk Railway. The present premises occupied are extensive, covering nearly twelve acres of land. Up to 1882 the company manufactured chairs exclusively. Then, in addition to fine chairs, a general line of furniture was manufactured. The enterprise had but poor success until 1882, when to chair making furniture was added, the stock not being all taken until then. It has since prospered and is considered one of the soundest manufacturing establishments in the city. Its present officers are: R. W. Butterfield, president; John Mowat, vice-president, and E. H. Foote, secretary and treasurer.

From the foregoing it will be noticed that as soon as Grand Rapids became a railroad center by the advent of new railroads, in 1869-70 and '71, furniture manufacturing became firmly established as a leading industry of the city. Large corporations were then organized and big factories built. Outside capital came, allured by the profits of the business. Traveling salesmen were sent out to solicit orders, salesrooms were opened in the large cities, and modern methods of business rapidly developed.

The Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia in 1876 did much to advertise Grand Rapids furniture. The furniture men of Grand Rapids made a special display of their products and the results justified their efforts. The country then learned that Grand Rapids was a great furniture manufacturing town and thereafter salesmen of Grand Rapids furniture had prestige and force behind them when they presented the products of their factories to the trade and the public. The art and originality of Grand Rapids designers soon put Grand Rapids furniture to the front, and the supremacy then obtained has never been lost.

In early days of manufacturing much of the wood used in making Grand Rapids furniture was obtained from Michigan forests.

For years black walnut was in universal demand for fine furniture. The supply became exhausted and then other woods took its place. In the later period of the demand for black walnut furniture old rails were taken from the fences built years before from walnut trees, and old black walnut stumps were dug from the ground to furnish stock for Grand Rapids furniture factories.

After black walnut, cherry, maple, beech and birch were used. When the supply of Michigan woods became limited or exhausted, other states and other countries were searched for woods with which to make furniture in Grand Rapids factories. For years Grand Rapids has been importing tropical woods from Mexico, Central America, South America, Africa and the islands of the sea for making fine furniture. The demand for materials is as great as is the demand for skill in working them up. "Useless one without the other."

In recent years many a furniture man has sighed and longed for the products of Michigan forests which he saw burned and destroyed in his boyhood. Undoubtedly there are rich farms in Kent county today whose total products from the beginning would not equal the value of the timber burned thereon to prepare the soil for cultivation. The first settlers destroyed a wealth of timber without realizing it, but the furniture manufacturer of the present has no time to grieve for the past. The future is of interest; where can timber be found which will make artistic furniture? If on earth it will be found and utilized. If not on earth it will be cultivated and produced. Cultivating timber is a coming industry.

For many years Grand Rapids factories have sent over the country traveling salesmen to solicit orders and also maintained salesrooms in the large cities of the land. From the beginning, however, there were customers who preferred coming to Grand Rapids and looking over stocks at the factory before making their purchases. After a time the factories began to rent desirable storerooms down town for exhibiting furniture to such buyers. From that it was but a step to construct buildings especially planned for exhibiting furniture.

As a result furniture exhibitions have become an established institution in the city. Twice a year—in midsummer and in midwinter—furniture buyers flock to Grand Rapids to see and

buy furniture. Many buildings, wholly or in part, are given to exhibition purposes. Such are the Blodgett building at the corner of Ottawa and Louis streets, the Masonic Temple on Ionia street, the Pythian Temple on Ionia street, the Exhibition building, sometimes called the Waters building, on Ottawa street, the exhibition building on Ionia street and the Manufacturers' building on Ionia street.

Not only furniture buyers come to Grand Rapids expositions of furniture, but outside manufacturers send their products to be exhibited alongside the products of Grand Rapids factories. During a furniture exposition Grand Rapids is a busy place. The hotels are thronged with buyers and sellers. Retailers and wholesalers and salesmen and commission men and manufacturers abound. It is sometimes charged that even pirates come to appropriate fine designs not their own for use in making imitations of fine Grand Rapids furniture.

While an exhibition is in progress all Grand Rapids furniture salesmen are "at home" to welcome visiting buyers and entertain old friends and customers. As soon as the exposition is over Grand Rapids salesmen depart to find new customers and take new orders from old ones. "If the mountain does not come to Mohammed, Mohammed goes to the mountain."

In connection with making furniture there have developed special lines of industry and business which have greatly influenced the furniture business. One of the most important of these side industries was the making of caster sockets. In 1885-6 Julius Berkey and W. R. Fox obtained patents for devices in the way of integral springs, track plate sockets, and later on for steel tubes and grip sockets. The Furniture Caster Association was incorporated May 26, 1886, with an authorized capital stock of \$90,000—Wilder D. Stevens, president; Melville R. Bissell, vice-president; George G. Whitworth, secretary and treasurer—for the purpose of manufacturing and dealing in the Fox Patent Track Plate, Automatic Spring Caster Socket and Removable Casters. These were Grand Rapids inventions, arising out of the demand of the furniture trade for something that was an improvement on the old way of casting. The importance of the inventions may be judged from a description. A socket of malleable iron, provided with a tempered steel spring, is surrounded by a toothed ferrule, or shield holding the several parts in

place, preventing the foot or post from splitting and the corners from breaking. The caster had an enlargement or head at the upper end of the shank, over which the spring in the socket slips, holding it in place when lifted from the floor, and yet it is easily removed by a slight pull, in which case the track plates prevent breakage of furniture by sliding over the floors of warehouses. It further permitted the manufacturer to caster goods in the factory, while in the process of construction, thus doing the work much cheaper and better.

Before these devices appeared dealers preferred to put casters on after the furniture came from the factory. After the Furniture Dealers Association was organized it first had to induce the trade to receive and use the new casters and then it had to defend its patents in the courts. It was successful in both, with a result that it was one of the most successful financial ventures ever launched in Grand Rapids.

It is claimed that not one dollar of the \$90,000 capital was ever paid in; that the association borrowed \$5,000 for the necessary expense of starting the business which was soon paid back by the trade. Dividends of 20 and 25 per cent on the capital stock were common. Before the patents expired it is claimed that more than 300,000,000 sockets were made and sold with a profit of about a thousand dollars to each 1,000,000 sold.

The association and its successors bought and controlled other patents and during the years the business was carried on the chief expense of the company was maintaining its rights in the courts. It is claimed that more than a quarter of a million of dollars was paid in profits by the association and its successors to the stockholders. During the life of the enterprise George G. Whitworth was its manager. Among other Grand Rapids men connected with the enterprise were W. D. Stevens, S. T. Stevens, Charles C. Rood, C. C. Philbrick, Julius Berkey, George W. Gay, John A. Covode, J. C. Rickenbaugh, Joseph Martin, Edward Taggart, A. C. Denison, Wm. A. Gunn and Mc. George Bundy.

In 1903 the life of the important patents controlled by the association expired, and immediately the business of the association came to an end. Manufacturers have since made their own sockets, and casters.

Commercial photography has become an important adjunct to



the furniture industry. Fine designs are constructed, and models made from which photographs are taken and developed for the use of the salesman and the catalogue. In Grand Rapids there are many men and women who devote their entire time to producing fine pictures of fine furniture. The making of veneer is a kindred industry to making furniture. Valuable woods are cut into thin strips which are glued to wood less valuable with a result that often veneered goods have the beauty and strength of solid goods; in fact art so improves nature that sometimes veneered furniture is better than the genuine article.

The Grand Rapids Veneer Works are the practical outgrowth of several attempts and experiments in the manufacture of thin woods. In August, 1882, the Grand Rapids Veneer and Panel Company was organized with a capital of \$30,000, but being a new enterprise was not successful. After about two years it was superseded by the A. B. Watson Veneer and Panel Company. In January, 1886, the Grand Rapids Veneer Works were incorporated, with a capital stock of \$30,000, purchasing the entire plant of the A. B. Watson Veneer and Panel Company, with the following official board: A. B. Watson, president; Cyrus E. Perkins, vice-president; C. B. Judd, secretary and treasurer; Z. Clark Thewing, general manager. The factory of the company is by the river bank on North Front street, between Eighth and Tenth. The business of this concern has grown and its capital increased until it is among the large institutions of the city. Its present officers are: Cyrus E. Perkins, president; Z. Clark Thewing, vice-president and manager, and Fred S. Torrey, secretary and treasurer.

**Charles Carter Comstock** was born at Sullivan, Cheshire County, New Hampshire, March 5th, 1818, son of Wm. and Ruth Crane Comstock. His father was a farmer of moderate means and his education was obtained in the common schools of New England. At an early age he commenced business for himself and quickly developed the ability, energy and tact that won success. He built and operated several saw-mills and carried on an extensive lumber business for that part of the country.

In 1853 he came with his family to Grand Rapids, Mich., and again engaged in lumbering operations. Soon he commenced manufacturing wood products, and was among the first to use machinery for the making of sash, doors and blinds. He was also



*W. D. Comstock*



one of the first exporters of those articles from Grand Rapids to outside markets. In 1857 he purchased the Winchester furniture factory and greatly increased its capacity and business. He felt the financial depression of 1857, but with persistent determination he continued business and within four years satisfied all his financial obligations, and put his industrial enterprises on a sound basis. He was a pioneer in manufacturing furniture and in 1864 shipped the first carload of furniture from Grand Rapids. He established a branch house in Peoria, Ill., and opened a wholesale trade in the Chicago and Milwaukee markets.

In the fall of 1863 Mr. Comstock commenced manufacturing pails and tubs and successfully carried on the business for twenty years. He built a large brick factory at the corner of Canal and Newberry streets. It was equipped with the most improved machinery, and for many years was the largest establishment of its kind in this part of the country giving work to more than 200 employes, and using annually about 10,000,000 feet of timber. His three saw mills and lumber camps furnished employment for over 150 men.

In 1872 Mr. Comstock helped to organize the Grand Rapids Chair Company and continued as its largest stockholder and President until his death. This company gives employment to over 350 men.

In 1884 Mr. Comstock became an investor in pine in Louisiana. In 1890 he built the North Park Resort, with its double track railroad and pavilion, expending nearly \$100,000 for that purpose. Comstock Park of 99 acres, upon which the State Fair is held annually, was given by him to the West Michigan State Fair Association. He was always public spirited and generous, and by his efforts the Michigan Soldiers' Home Grounds were presented to the State.

He had on his pay rolls at one time over 900 employes. Many of his important enterprises must necessarily be omitted from any article, owing to their great number.

Mr. Comstock for years before his death owned and operated a farm north of the city upon which he lived. His farming interests near Grand Rapids comprised over 1,870 acres. The farm a half mile north of the city containing the Comstock residence is now the home of his widow.

Mr. Comstock was often honored by public offices of trust and responsibility. In 1863 and 1864 he was elected Mayor of the

city and was active in raising troops for the war and looking after their welfare in the field. He was an early advocate for the system of City Water Works. As a private enterprise he built the first reservoir on the hill for fire protection. In 1870 he was the candidate of the Democratic party for Governor. In 1873 at a special election he was the candidate of the Democrats for member of Congress, and in 1878 he was the candidate of the Greenback party for Congress. In 1884 he was elected to Congress by a fusion of the Democrats and Greenback parties.

In 1840 Mr. Comstock married Mary Winchester, who died in 1863. By that union there were four children. Their only son Tileston A. Comstock died in 1870 at the age of 26 years. Their eldest daughter Alzina, with her husband, Albert A. Stone, and their little son, were lost at sea by the wreck of the steamer Brother Jonathan, which went down in a storm off the coast of California in July, 1865. Their other daughters are Mrs. Julia C. Goldsmith and Mrs. Mary Konkle of this city.

In 1865 Mr. Comstock married Mrs. Cornelia Davis, daughter of Daniel Guild, one of the pioneers of the Grand River Valley. From this union were born Mrs. Lucius Boltwood and Mrs. Huntley Russell of this city.

Mr. Comstock died at his home north of the city on February 20, 1900. By his energy, his activity and faith in Grand Rapids he won success and prosperity. By his tenacity of purpose and commercial integrity he commanded the respect of the community, and by his liberality he gained and retained popularity and influence.

#### **The Luce Furniture Company.**

The Luce Furniture Co. began its business career under the name of the McCord & Bradfield Furniture Co., in the year 1878. The corporation was organized by the late Ransom C. Luce, Thomas McCord, John Bradfield, George Kendall and F. R. Luce. The business of the company at the beginning was confined to the manufacture of folding tables, after a patent obtained by John Bradfield. Shortly after the manufacture of bedsteads, in ash and maple was added and the plant of the company enlarged. This was continued for a year or more, when the company entered largely into the manufacture of medium priced furniture for the bed-room. About that period Mr. Bradfield sold his interest to R. C. and F. R. Luce, and a few months



*A. C. Luce*



later Mr. McCord retired transferring his interests to the same persons. The direct management of the business was then undertaken by the late F. R. Luce, who soon demonstrated his capacity for the responsible position for which he was chosen by the earning of large dividends and the erection of the immense plant now occupied by the company on Godfrey avenue, without calling upon the stockholders for additional money. Mr. Luce's health failed several years ago and upon his decease R. C. Luce, then president of the company, entered the office, and calling to his assistance F. E. Stevens and C. A. Luce undertook the management of the great enterprise. Mr. Stevens had long been associated with F. R. Luce. Mr. Charles A. Luce had long been engaged in a responsible position in the factory, having the care of the machinery and supplies used in the business. He was called into the office and assumed the responsible position of treasurer of the company. Upon the death of Ransom C. Luce another son Gregory M. Luce, was called to the presidency and under his competent and experienced management the company made rapid strides upon the highway of commercial power. Formerly the company manufactured medium priced chamber suites, sideboards and chiffoniers, but with the installation of improved machinery and tools and the acquirement of great skill by their workmen, the company abandoned the lower grades of production and is now confining its efforts mainly to the manufacture of medium and high grade furniture.

**Ransom C. Luce** was born April 29th, 1822, in Genesee County, New York. His ancestors were with Roger Williams when in early New England history that preacher and pioneer sought religious freedom and liberty of conscience by going into the wilderness and founding the Providence Plantations. He attended country schools in New York, but when he was 17 years of age his family came to Michigan and for a time lived at Detroit where the future merchant had his first experience in trade by selling apples from a hand basket on the streets of the town and the boats of the river. In 1841 the family moved on to Sturgis Prairie and lived there about a year, after which they moved to Grand Rapids, and his parents kept the Eagle Hotel. After a time his father, Marston Luce, went into the grocery business at 39 Monroe street, and Ransom C. assisted him. In March, 1846, Marston Luce died, and thereafter Ransom C. had charge

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of the business and the care of the family. In those days the grocery business included dealing in all manner of provisions and family supplies, and the buying of such produce as the settlers could raise on their farms and sell. The buying, packing, shipping and selling of pork was an important part of the business. Battle Creek was the shipping point, and Ransom C. Luce was often his own teamster to take out his pork and bring in his groceries. He knew every stopping place, feeding spot, and piece of corduroy on the main travelled roads between Grand Rapids and the Michigan Central Railroad. He continued in the grocery business at 39 Monroe street until 1862 when he sold out to Johnson & Chamberlain, and then engaged in general merchandise in his own new building on the corner of Monroe and Ottawa streets which he continued for many years.

In 1879 he became vice-president of the McCord & Bradfield Furniture Co. and so continued until 1886 when it was reorganized as the Luce Furniture Company, of which he was president until his death. From its organization he was a stockholder and officer of the National City Bank.

Mr. Luce always had faith in Grand Rapids and its real estate. After the death of his father he owned and managed the property at 33-39 Monroe street, at the head of Market street, which still remains with his family. In 1854 he purchased the corner of Monroe and Ottawa streets for \$2,000, and in 1856 erected thereon the first brick block constructed in Grand Rapids, which for many years was the finest business block of the city. In it was a hall which long continued to be the lecture room and theater of the town. He personally managed and took care of the hall when public men, celebrities and artists of national and international reputations there made their appearance before Grand Rapids audiences. He platted and sold in town lots five acres at the corner of Jefferson and Eighth avenues, and also five acres at the corner of Madison and Fifth avenues.

Mr. Luce was always a Republican and took a deep interest in political and municipal affairs. For fourteen years he was a member of the Common Council, being first elected in 1857. For more than thirty years he was a Cemetery Commissioner of the city. He was one of the founders of All Souls Church and was its supporter until his death.

While in the grocery business on Monroe street he lived over

the store, but in 1854 built the house on the southeast corner of East Fulton street and Jefferson avenue, which ever after was his home.

In 1850 he married Sarah H. Gregory, of Grand Rapids, who died in March, 1865. Of this marriage two sons survive, Gregory M., of Mobile, Alabama, and Charles A., of Grand Rapids. In 1872 he married Charlotte C. Montague, of Grand Rapids. Two sons are the issue of the second marriage.

He died March 22nd, 1902.

Mr. Luce was a man of simple tastes and habits. He belonged to no clubs or fraternities. He took an active part in the business affairs of the Universalist church and thoroughly believed in its doctrines and teachings. He always attended the meetings of the Old Settlers' Association, and derived keen enjoyment from meeting his old associates and fighting again the battles of the wilderness.

By constitution, character and temperament Ransom C. Luce was destined to success as a pioneer. Apparently he did not know what it was to be physically tired or mentally discouraged. He was rugged in mind and body. He possessed an iron will, reserve force, and dogged determination. Obstacles and opposition only roused latent energy and developed unseen powers. He had great faith in the Grand River Valley and Grand Rapids, their people and their resources. When Grand Rapids was a village he felt it would soon become a town, and when it was a town he knew it was destined to become a city. His confidence and his energy brought him first a competence and then wealth. He enjoyed his good fortune, not that it could give him luxuries for which he did not care, but because it justified his hopes, his judgment and his acumen in tying his fortunes to Grand Rapids. He loved the Valley City and loved to see it and its people prosper.

#### **History of the Oriel Cabinet Company.**

For a number of years previous to 1880, the manufacture of cheap chamber suites was carried on in the factory from which sprung the Oriel Cabinet Company by Wheeler, Green & Gay. The business was remunerative but the death of one of the partners rendered a reorganization of the business necessary, when the survivors of the firm interested additional capital and the Oriel Cabinet Company was incorporated. The factory was en-

larged but the management was unsuccessful, and at the end of three years the corporation was on the verge of bankruptcy. At this time Charles W. Black, was engaged in traveling on the road with a number of lines of fancy cabinet ware. He was a frequent sojourner in Grand Rapids, and on one occasion of a stay in the city, the condition of the Oriel Cabinet Company was brought to his notice. The officers of the company having become convinced that Mr. Black was qualified to revive the industry, made him an offer to undertake the management, which he accepted after due deliberation. Mr. Black sold the old goods, put the factory into operation and had built up an extensive trade, when the factory was destroyed by fire. The equipping of another factory and the resumption of business within thirty days; the building of the great plant now occupied, the financial storm of 1893 that fell with almost crushing force upon the company; the long and weary struggle with a heavy burden of debt and a lifeless market need not be repeated. The last vestige of indebtedness has been paid off and no furniture manufacturing corporation has a firmer footing than has the Oriel Cabinet Company.

**Frederick R. Luce** was born in Grand Rapids, February 2, 1857, son of Ransom C. Luce, by his first wife. He was educated in the Grand Rapids schools and at the Smithsonian Institute, of Logansport, Ind., from which he graduated in 1875. Owing to failing health he went to Colorado soon after his graduation, and engaged in mining, following it successfully for about five years, when, at his father's suggestion, he returned to Grand Rapids in 1879. He was then married to Miss Mary B. Nevin, of St. Louis, Mo., who, with one daughter, survives him. The furniture business being the chief enterprise of the city, he immediately associated himself with Messrs. McCord & Bradfield in the manufacture of tables for three years, and in 1882 purchased the interests of both McCord and Bradfield, thus placing himself at the head of the firm which was thereafter styled The Luce Furniture Company, and under his management the steadily increasing business soon warranted greater facilities, and a new factory was built and Mr. Luce remained in active management until his death, which was due largely to the strain under which he labored to carry on the business, and occurred on May 29, 1900. He was successful because he was energetic, in-



*J. H. R. Luce*



dustrious and far-sighted, and he gave the best years of his life to the immense institution which still continues under his name; he was a Captain of Industry whose death was a great loss to the city.

While not a member, he was a regular attendant of the Park Congregational Church, of which he was a Trustee for eight years. He was a Republican in politics.

#### **Sligh Furniture Company.**

Among several furniture manufacturing companies organized in Grand Rapids during the year 1880, was the Sligh Furniture Company. With only \$25,000 in its treasury the company erected and equipped a moderate sized factory and commenced the manufacture of low priced chamber suites and sideboards. The business of the company grew steadily and each of the several succeeding years witnessed the erection of an addition to the factory and an increased output of goods. The company weathered the hard times in 1884 and 1893 successfully and by improving its line from time to time gained a firm hold on the trade. The company operates one of the largest factories in the United States in the manufacture of fine and medium furniture. Mahogany is used largely. The business had its inception in the mind of Charles R. Sligh, who has ever been its guiding spirit. Aside from the spacious and perfectly equipped departments devoted to the manufacture, trimming, packing and shipping of goods, the company has provided a magnificent suite of offices in mahogany and marble for the use of the officers and designers. There are also large and pleasant sample rooms for the display of goods. Several logging camps and saw mills in Michigan and Wisconsin and tracts of mahogany in South America are owned by the company.

#### **William A. Berkey Furniture Company.**

The Wm. A. Berkey Furniture Company, manufacturers of medium and fine furniture for the chamber, parlor and the library, was established by the late Wm. A. Berkey upwards of twenty-five years ago. Soon after the company began business, it was joined by William H. Jones, who had long been connected with the Phoenix Furniture Company as a selling agent; also by

Lewis T. and Clarence W. Peck. The company commenced business manufacturing tables, pedestals, and similar goods, but as the business grew and a large factory was taken possession of, the line was expanded until it numbered from five to six hundred pieces, making a specialty of mahogany goods. Since the death of Wm. A. Berkey, the business management of the corporation has been largely in the hands of Wm. H. Jones. The officers are: Wm. H. Jones, president; E. B. Jones, vice-president; Lewis T. Peck, secretary and treasurer.

**William A. Berkey** was a man of strong convictions who upheld his opinions honestly and fearlessly. Throughout his long career he was governed by moral principles in the conduct of his business, and in the promotion of enterprises planned to help mankind, as well as to carry out his personal aims.

The man who provides work for ten men when there was work for but one and who builds up great business enterprises furnishing employment in the course of years to thousands of men is a public benefactor.

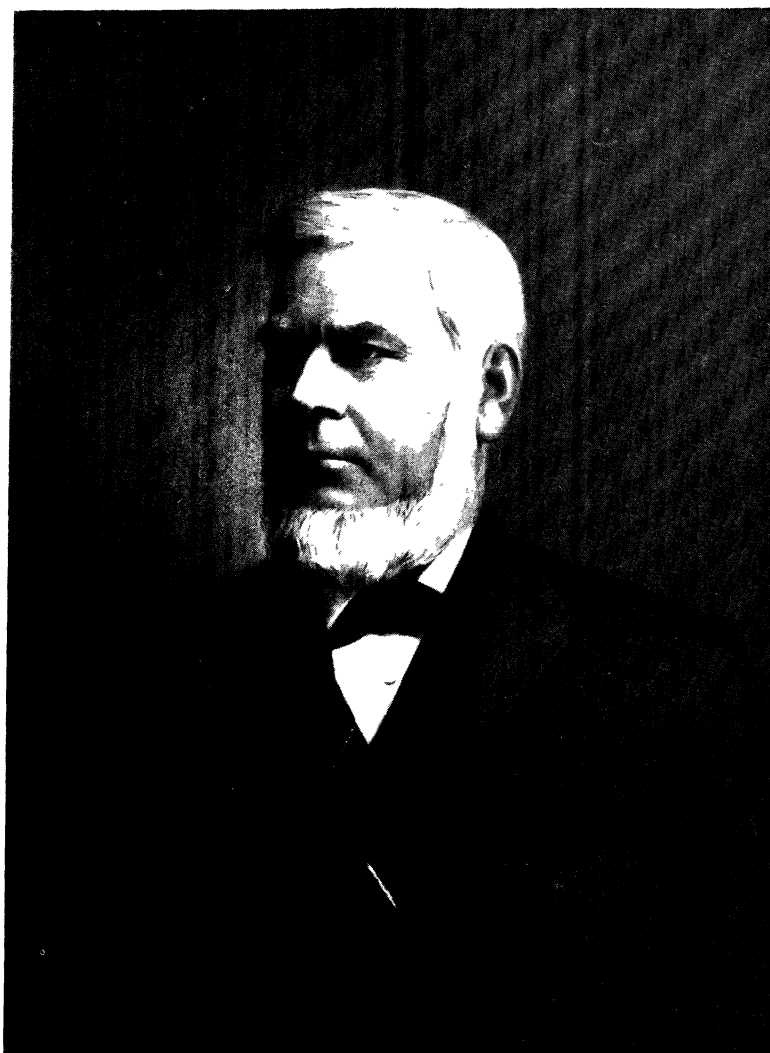
In the local history of Grand Rapids the name of William A. Berkey will ever appear in this class. His life briefly sketched is as follows:

He was born on a farm in Perry County, Ohio, in the year 1823. His educational advantages were those of the common district schools, in which he taught several seasons, working at the carpenter's trade summers. In 1848 he was married to Mary Springer of Seneca County, Ohio, and their union proved a long and happy one. In the same year he engaged in the manufacture of sash and doors in Tiffin, Ohio. He sold out seven years later for the purpose of moving to Grand Rapids and resuming the same line of manufacture.

He erected a factory in 1859 on Mill street and added furniture to his output. In 1863 he entered into a partnership with his brother Julius Berkey, and Elias Matter and engaged in the manufacture of furniture, for the wholesale trade, under the name of Berkey Bros. & Company. In the year 1866 George W. Gay purchased an interest in the firm, when its name was changed to Berkey Bros. & Gay. Mr. Matter retired in 1870.

In the year 1868 Mr. Berkey was appointed assignee for the bankrupt firm of Atkins & Soule, cabinet makers, at the corner of Ottawa and Fairbanks streets. Applying his business ex-

1846  
7  
1855



*Wm A. Berkey*





perience to the affairs of the firm he was able to pay creditors a considerable percentage of their claims. His plans were interrupted however by a fire in the plant which caused a heavy loss.

Later he organized a stock company, purchased the old business of Atkins & Soule, and, calling it the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, was made president of the corporation.

January 1st, 1873, he retired from the Berkey Bros. & Gay Company, selling his interest to his former partners. He then called to his aid a number of men prominent in the business affairs of the city, and, with additional capital, reorganized the Phoenix Manufacturing Company, changing its name to the Phoenix Furniture Company. The company erected a large factory and saw mill on W. Fulton and Summer streets, and he was its president until 1879 when he sold his interest and retired from active business. At the expiration of three years, when he arrived at the age of sixty, he again in 1882 opened a factory on Louis street, and success almost instantly rewarded his efforts.

The line of tables he brought out was a little better in every way, than anything of the kind then on the market. In 1885 he organized a stock company, calling it the Wm. A. Berkey Furniture Company, which had a factory on Waterloo street. He held the office of president of the company until his death in 1902, having retired from active service however some years previous on account of ill health.

He considered it the duty of every man to exercise his prerogative in conventions and at the ballot box. His convictions were so strong that he did not hesitate when he deemed such a departure to be for the common good to abandon a political party for the purpose of affiliating with another, whose principles and policies, in his judgment, would best serve the interests of the whole people, and his motives were never questioned. He was a Republican for many years, but upon the organization of the Greenback party he became an adherent of its doctrines and published a book on finance, entitled "The Money Question" of which three editions were issued. Early in life he became a member of the Methodist church.

He died January 17, 1902, leaving his wife and two daughters, Mrs. Emma Berkey Jones of Grand Rapids, and Mrs. Lydia Wealthy Neely of Muncie, Indiana.

Wm. A. Berkley lived to honor his race, and has left his imprint on the industrial enterprises of the city.

#### **Stow & Davis Furniture Company.**

Twenty-five years ago Grand Rapids manufacturers made little else than staple lines of furniture. Today every line made in the city is of a higher grade artistically than the best lines made in those days. The tendency is towards further improvement, and within a comparative short time nothing will be produced by Grand Rapids factories but the best medium and fine grades of furniture. Although the Stow & Davis Furniture Company originally made low grades of kitchen and extension tables, it has kept in step with the general tendency to improve the quality of the Grand Rapids product, until no table manufactory in the United States produces a line which is so generally and thoroughly good in every particular as the product of this company. Ex-Mayor Stow and Geo. A. Davis, President of the Board of Education, are prudent and careful business men, full of energy and progress. The factory is located on S. Front street opposite Watson street. The officers of the company are: George A. Davis, president; Edgar W. Hunting, secretary; and L. C. Stow, treasurer.

**Lathrop C. Stow** was born in Summit County, Ohio, in 1849. His parents were Zeblum and Edytha (Wolcott) Stow, the former a native of Connecticut and the latter of Ohio. They settled on a farm in Michigan in 1863. Lathrop attended the common schools and in 1872 came to Grand Rapids and spent three years in a real estate office. In 1876 he organized the Grand Rapids Furniture Company, owning a one-half interest, and continued in the business until 1893, when he disposed of his interest. Since 1895, he has been a member of the firm of Stow & Davis Furniture Co.

Mr. Stow has been a member of the Board of Public Works for four years. He was elected Mayor of the city of Grand Rapids by the Republican party in the spring of 1896, being the first two-year incumbent of that office.

In 1870 he was married in Cascade Township, Kent County, to Miss Frances M. Teple, and has one daughter.

**Nachtegall & Veit Company**, manufacturers of bank, library, office and court house furniture and fixtures, was organized in

1902, by Alfred Nachttegall and Jacob Veit, with Mr. Nachttegall as active manager. Their output the first year was about ten thousand dollars and their products were sold in the local markets. They now (1905) employ about thirty-five men and their annual output is about sixty-five thousand dollars, their products being sold in the general markets throughout the United States.

**Alfred Nachttegall** was born September 6, 1868, at Elberfeld, Germany, son of Frank and Minnie Nachttegall. He attended the public schools in Germany until 1886, when he with his parents came to the United States settling at Grand Rapids, where he worked at the cabinet maker's trade until 1900, having charge at times of the different departments of the several factories with which he was connected. In 1900-01 Mr. Nachttegall represented the American Machinery Company, at the Paris Exposition. Returning to Grand Rapids in 1902, he organized the firm of Nachttegall & Veit, manufacturers of office, bank and commercial fixtures.

On September 12th, 1893, Mr. Nachttegall was married at Grand Rapids to Miss Julia Karch.

#### **The New England Furniture Company.**

Previous to 1880 the firm of E. F. Ward & Co., of which the New England Furniture Company is the successor, was engaged in the manufacture of sash, doors and blinds in the city of Grand Rapids. The New England Furniture Company was in 1880 organized by E. F. Ward, Elias Skinner, Henry C. Brooks of the old firm, and several of their former employes, among whom were George B. Lewis, H. M. Amsden, W. S. Emery and A. O. Ward. The initial line, brought out by the company, was known as cottage furniture, or furniture decorated with painted ornamentation, instead of carvings. It sold well for a number of years, when the company decided to engage in the production of medium priced chamber furniture of standard quality, abandoning the decorated paint finish. Recent years have been devoted entirely to the manufacture of sideboards, buffets, side tables and furniture for the dining room. The company's ware-room is located in the center of the business section of Grand Rapids, within from five to ten minutes' walk of the leading hotels. Charles H. Berkey is president of the company, George

B. Lewis the vice-president, and A. R. Peebles, secretary and treasurer.

**Charles H. Berkey** was born in Tiffin, Ohio, on January 21, 1849. In 1858 his parents moved to Illinois. Mr. Berkey was educated in the common schools supplemented with studies in the State Normal School at Bloomington and the Wesleyan University. In 1871 he came to Grand Rapids and for a time engaged in the furniture business after which for a few years he was in the real estate business. In 1884 he organized the Royal Furniture Company and for fifteen years was its treasurer and manager. In 1902 he bought an interest in the New England Furniture Company of which he has since been an officer. He was prominent in the organization of the Rapid Heater Company and since its organization has given his personal attention to its business. He is also a stockholder and interested in several other business and manufacturing enterprises.

In politics Mr. Berkey is a Republican. He is a Mason and a Knight Templar.

In 1884 he married Miss Laura Phelps. They have a family of one son and one daughter. The family residence is at the corner of Fountain and North Prospect streets.

#### **The Royal Furniture Company.**

Early in the eighties the manufacture of cheap and medium priced furniture for the hall was commenced in Grand Rapids by the Universal Tripod Company. After several years of success in this line of production the name of the corporation was changed to the Royal Furniture Company. A first class designer, Mr. A. W. Hompe, was employed and the line was changed to medium and high grade furniture for the chamber and dining room. The company operates a large factory in the heart of the manufacturing section of the city, and an extensive wareroom contains their samples. The business of the company is conducted by A. W. Hompe, Ralph S. Tietz and R. W. Irwin, who fill the offices of president, treasurer and secretary, respectively.

#### **The Pioneer Wood Carving House.**

The manufacture of wood ornaments and trimmings for furniture in Grand Rapids is an interesting story. John Waddell, the founder of this branch of business in this city, came to



*Chas. Berkeley*



Grand Rapids from Canada in 1869, and entered the employ of Berkey Bros. & Gay as a wood turner, and worked there about nine years. In 1878 he rented a small basement in a factory on Mill street and began the manufacture of escutcheons, rosettes and commode buttons. Most of the furniture at that time was made of black walnut, white ash and maple—the latter finished dark to imitate walnut. But very few machines were used at that time, and those were very crude in comparison to those used today. But John Waddell was ingenious as well as industrious, and discovered that by slight changes and new attachments the value of some of the old machines could be more than doubled. He used to make his designs and patterns and go over to a neighboring machine shop and direct the making of his attachments. By this means he greatly increased the producing capacity of his little shop. In 1880 he was joined by his brother, George, who was an architect by profession. While in the factory on Mill street they contracted with a large jobbing house in Detroit to furnish about a million wooden door knobs. These were mostly made in walnut and Hungarian ash, and when finished were very handsome. As business increased larger quarters became necessary, and they purchased the site of the present Waddell Manufacturing Company's plant at Taylor and Coldbrook streets, remodeling a large frame building and in 1882 moved into the same. E. J. Aldworth, the secretary and treasurer of the company, bought an interest in the firm on September 5, 1882, and business was conducted as a firm until January, 1888, when the Waddell Manufacturing Company was incorporated, with a capital stock of \$25,000, and the following officers: President, John Waddell; vice-president, George Waddell; secretary and treasurer, E. J. Aldworth. In 1893, owing to the continued growth of the business, the capital stock of the company was increased to \$100,000. A brick factory three times as large as the frame factory has been added, together with dry kilns, a new engine and boiler house, a large machine shop, where all the cutting tools are made and many new machines from special designs, wholly unlike anything else in use elsewhere. These are the product of the brain of John Waddell. He draws designs of furniture or wood ornaments and then goes into the factory and makes them, and can at any time take charge of and operate any machine in the shop; and if there is nothing in the ma-



chinery line that will accomplish the work he has in mind he designs and makes a machine that will.

George Waddell died in December, 1894. The business of the company remains in the hands of John Waddell and E. J. Aldworth, who have increased the output of the factory and added to the variety of goods manufactured. This company is probably the largest of its kind in the world; its trade extending to all parts of the United States, Canada, Europe and other countries.

**Stickley Bros. Company** was organized in 1891 by Mr. Albert Stickley, and incorporated with \$100,000 capital under its present name, and located on Godfrey avenue.

During the first year of its existence, the company employed about 75 men with an output of \$170,000, and manufactured fancy chairs and all kinds of tables, while the last report, in 1905, shows 275 employes, an output of \$400,000 and an increase of capital invested to nearly a half a million. Mr. Albert Stickley is president, J. R. Carpenter, vice-president; E. L. Maddox, treasurer, and P. H. Read, secretary.

In addition to this immense furniture business, the company is operating a tannery for the tanning and finishing of Spanish leather which finds ready market in all parts of the United States; they also manufacture a line of Russian Hand Beaten Copper, besides conducting an Inlaying Marquetry plant, under the name of T. A. Conti & Co., which turns out the finest inlaid work of any plant in the country.

From 1897 to 1902 the company maintained a wareroom and branch factory at London, England, employing about 75 men.

**Albert Stickley**, President of the Stickley Bros. Company, was born at Osceola, Polk Co., Wis., December 31st, 1863, to Leopold and Barbara Stickley. He was educated in the common schools and the high school at Stillwater, Minn., and although his birthday is the last day in the year, he has not been least in his undertakings since he began business life. He followed farming for a time and after leaving school worked in a factory until he gained considerable experience and later was a traveling salesman. He learned the trade of furniture manufacturing with his brother, with whom he started a chair factory in Binghamton, N. Y. They also manufactured chairs in Brandt, Pa. In 1892 they came to Grand Rapids and organized the present firm of Stickley Bros. Company, of which Mr. Stickley is now president.



*Albert Stickley*



Mr. Stickley has traveled extensively on the continent, spending much time in London, England, where the company's branch factory was located, and the immense manufacturing plant which he operates in Grand Rapids is due to his twenty-three years' experience in the business.

Mr. Stickley is a Republican in politics, and his religious affiliations are with the Congregational church. He was married to Miss Jennie T. Worden, and their beautiful home is on North Prospect street.

#### **The Michigan Chair Company.**

The Michigan Chair Company was established in 1883 by Henry S. Jordan, Thomas F. Garratt and Edward Crawford, under the name of the Grand Ledge Chair Company, and its factory, consisting of an old saw mill, was located at Grand Ledge, Michigan. The capital stock was about \$250, together with the pluck and energy of the promoters, and the employees consisted of Crawford, Jordan and Garratt. They manufactured chairs of medium grade and their output for the first year was less than ten thousand dollars. The Grand Ledge Company was incorporated in 1883. In 1890 they commenced operating a factory at Grand Rapids and for two years ran both factories. In 1892 they sold their Grand Ledge plant and continued the Grand Rapids factory. In 1894 they were re-incorporated under the name of the Michigan Chair Company, with capital stock of \$150,000, with H. S. Jordan, president; Edward Crawford, vice president, and Thomas F. Garratt, secretary and treasurer. In 1901 owing to ill health Mr. Crawford withdrew from the firm and Mr. Chas. H. Cox became connected with the institution, and was made vice-president in place of Mr. Crawford. The company now employs about four hundred men and their output is about \$400,000 annually. They manufacture everything in the chair line from a medium grade dining chair to a high grade parlor chair. Their products are sold in the markets of the United States and foreign countries.

**Henry S. Jordan**, son of James and Elizabeth (Simpson) Jordan was born in Noira, Ireland, July 10, 1843. In 1848 the family immigrated to the United States, and settled at Rochester, New York, and here Henry attended the public schools until he was 9 years of age when he started to work in a chair factory, at the

munificent salary of one dollar per week. At the age of 13 he worked during the day and attended night school. He later spent some time at St. Louis working at making furniture, after which in 1872, he came to Grand Rapids, and was employed for one year in the factory of the Grand Rapids Chair Company, then for ten years was with the Phoenix Furniture Company. In 1883 he left the latter firm, and with Edward Crawford and Thomas F. Garratt organized the Grand Ledge Chair Company, which was, in 1894, incorporated and the name changed to the Michigan Chair Company, of which he is the president.

**Thomas F. Garratt** was born at Detroit, Michigan, in 1852; son of Elijah and Elizabeth (Jackson) Garratt, who early in 1840 migrated from England to the United States. Thomas attended the common schools of Detroit until he reached the age of 12 years, when he started to work in a pail and tub factory, where he remained ten years. He then entered a chair factory in the same city and learned the art of making chairs. In 1874 he went to Indiana where he remained four years, coming to Grand Rapids in 1878. He spent five years with the Grand Rapids Chair Company when, in 1883, with H. S. Jordan and Edward Crawford he formed the Grand Ledge Chair Company. In 1894 the name of the concern was changed to the Michigan Chair Company, of which he is now secretary and treasurer.

Mr. Garratt is a member of the Masonic order being a Knight Templar and 32d degree Mason. He was married at Grand Rapids in 1881 to Miss Hattie Rich, and has one son.

**Charles H. Cox** was born in Nova Scotia in 1852. He was educated in the common schools of Boston and came to Grand Rapids in 1887. In 1901 he became connected with the Michigan Chair Company and has since been vice-president of the company.

### **The Imperial.**

The Imperial factory is the most recently built of the large furniture factories of Grand Rapids and is one of the finest furniture plants in America. The building is of brick and steel construction, the main part 210x65 feet, and the wing 165x65 feet. It is four stories high with basement. In it are 10,928 square feet of ribbed window glass, making it one of the best lighted factories in the country.

On the first floor are located the offices, shipping room and

machine room. On the second floor is the cabinet room and show room. In the latter department is an entertainment room, fitted up with tables and chairs for the accommodation of the firm's guests.

On the third floor is the carving and stock rooms. The entire fourth floor is the finishing room and photograph gallery. One room of the basement is fitted for laying veneers. In connection with this room is a large veneer vault designed for the storage of mahogany. In the other room of the basement is the entire line shafting, all of the piping, the dust arrester and electric wires.

The engine, boiler and oil rooms are separate. The plant is operated by a 300-horse power Villter engine and is also provided with a Westinghouse direct connection unit generator and engine of 125-horse power. In addition there is a 1,000-gallon Knowles fire pump.

The dry kiln is the largest in the state of Michigan. It is of cement and steel construction, absolutely fireproof, built in three sections. The total drying capacity is 24,000 feet of hardwood lumber a day.

The tower is 110 feet high. In the seventh story it contains a 30,000 gallon tank connected with a sprinkler system, with which the structure is completely equipped.

The heating system is of the vacuum exhaust steam style. The factory is connected by siding with three railways, the Grand Trunk, the Pere Marquette and the G. R. & I. The plant is equipped throughout with the most modern machinery, many of the devices being of special design. The company is composed of many of the principal stockholders in the Michigan Chair company. The plant is located in Broadway, between North and Railroad streets.

The officers are Daniel McCoy, president; Roger W. Butterfield, vice-president and F. Stuart Foote, secretary and treasurer.

### **The C. S. Paine Company.**

From excelsior mattresses to fine Colonial davenports and couches is a long and weary road and one beset with dangers. The Paine Company has met and overcome each and all and was very recently incorporated for \$80,000; an immense factory was purchased, and there seems to be little left to strive for except the maintenance of the reputation for fine work. Charles S.

Paine is the president of the company; Mrs. M. R. Bissell, vice-president; William Gay, secretary and treasurer. The output of the factory amounts to \$200,000 annually.

#### **The Central Furniture Company.**

The Central Furniture Company was started as a firm in April, 1893, by Mr. Charles Snyder and two others. Three years later, April 21, 1896, the Central Furniture Company was incorporated, with a capital stock of \$25,000. The officers were, President, George Kalmbach; Vice-president, Fred Free; Secretary and Treasurer, Charles Snyder. About this time they moved to the factory at Wealthy avenue, Ionia and McConnell streets, formerly occupied by the Folding Chair and Table Company, and began the manufacture of a medium and high class line of bookcases, ladies desks, music cabinets and buffets, and so rapidly did the business grow that a large addition to the factory was soon erected. In the spring of 1899, Mr. J. R. Shelton bought an interest, and was elected vice-president.

#### **Retting & Sweet.**

The firm of Retting & Sweet erected a factory and commenced the manufacture of high grade furniture in Grand Rapids early in the nineties. From the start they manufactured goods correctly designed and as good as the combination of the best materials and skilled labor could produce. Their initial line won recognition and favor with the best class of dealers. Besides their transactions with dealers they have entered into many contracts to supply upholstered furniture for public buildings, such as state capitals, city halls and court houses, lodges, churches, and institutions of learning. Charles L. Retting is a master of the art of designing, building and selling high grade upholstery work. His associate, Frank H. Sweet, is a business man of large experience and a financier of ability.

#### **The Gunn Furniture Company.**

For more than sixty years W. S. Gunn, the founder of the Gunn Furniture Company, has been actively engaged in business in the city of Grand Rapids. His first investment as a manufacturer was in a foundry constructed to manufacture tools and im-

plements for the farm. In this he was successful, but in the course of time sold the foundry for the purpose of engaging in the hardware business. For many years he was known as a very successful retailer of hardware, and later when his son, W. A. Gunn, had attained man's estate, he extended his business by opening a wholesale hardware house. Mr. Gunn has an inventive mind and when, a few years ago so much attention was given to the manufacture of folding beds, he perfected and manufactured for a number of years one of the most desirable combination beds ever placed on the market. About this time Mr. Gunn invented a furniture caster, for which letters patent were issued by the government at Washington, and which has since been successfully manufactured and sold largely in Europe and America. When trade in folding beds began to wane, the company changed its line from folding beds to office furniture. In the manufacture of high grade office desks, sectional bookcases and filing cabinets the company occupies an enviable position. The company's factory is advantageously located for receiving materials and shipping goods, the sidings from their grounds being connected with three great trunk lines of railroad.

#### **The John Widdicomb Company.**

In the month of March, 1897, John Widdicomb purchased the plant of the Widdicomb Mantel company, which had failed during the preceding year. It was a good sized plant, capable of giving employment to two hundred and fifty men, and by many it was considered complete in every respect. Mr. Widdicomb organized the John Widdicomb Co. and commenced the manufacture of medium and fine chamber furniture.

In a few months the factory was unable to supply the demands of the company's customers, when two stories were added to the machinery building, an additional warehouse erected and other improvements made which largely increased the capacity of the factory. The demand for the John Widdicomb line continued to grow so strong as to require additional manufacturing facilities. Mr. Widdicomb learned of a very good factory located in the city of Charlotte, Mich., which had been idle for a number of years, and after making an examination of the property, which included a first class hard wood lumber mill, he purchased the plant and was enabled to double the company's output of goods.



One year later a very tempting proposition was presented to Mr. Widdicomb by the Singer Manufacturing company to furnish the cases necessary in the construction of the Singer sewing machines.

The contract amounted in the aggregate to several millions of dollars, but Mr. Widdicomb had not the facilities to produce the goods. Negotiations were instituted for the purchase of the Kent Furniture company's factory, in Grand Rapids. In the end the property came into the possession of the John Widdicomb Co. and the work of remodeling, enlarging and repairing the buildings was begun. Several months' time and a large sum of money was expended in improvements, the purchase and installation of new machinery and starting the factory. When Mr. Widdicomb had finished his work upon this plant the original builder would not have recognized it. The factory gives employment to 850 hands. Of this number 350 are employed in the Fifth street works, 400 in the Kent works and 100 in the Charlotte factory. It is estimated that the value of the output of these factories is \$900,000. These figures prove that the John Widdicomb Co. is among the largest employers of furniture workers in the state of Michigan, if not in the United States.

John Widdicomb, the head of the company, has devoted almost his entire life to the furniture manufacturing business.

#### **The Welch Folding Bed Company.**

Lyman W. Welch, the founder of the Welch Folding Bed Company, before coming to Grand Rapids, was engaged in the business of retailing furniture in one of the cities of New England. When the use of folding beds became general, Mr. Welch made a study of their construction, and possessing much native ingenuity proceeded to employ his faculties in the invention of a combination folding bed. The merits of his invention were quickly recognized when Mr. Welch came to Grand Rapids in the fall of 1884, and perfected arrangements for the manufacture of the bed. Local capital recognized the value of the patent and a firm was organized to purchase a factory at Sparta, Mich., where the manufacture of beds was undertaken. The merits of the Welch bed received instant recognition in the leading markets of the United States and the demand became so great that several enlargements of the factory, from time to time, became necessary.

Mr. Welch, in later years, brought out an excellent upright bed, which was called the "Oxford," and later added mantel and cabinet beds. New features in construction were developed and additional patents were issued in recognition of Mr. Welch's ingenuity by the patent office. The springs with the Welch patent folding attachment does away with center spring supports, affording room for a mattress of full thickness and necessary bedding. The company operate probably the largest factory in the world devoted exclusively to the production of this line of furniture. The samples are artistically designed and well constructed. Warerooms are maintained throughout the year in Grand Rapids, where buyers always find an intact line of the company's wares. L. W. Welch and Manly W. Burch are the sole owners of the business. Mr. Welch is the president, Mr. Burch the vice-president and superintendent of the factory.

#### **Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture Company.**

Those who were in business in 1893 remember that it was not a good one for new enterprises. But Mr. Uhl needed experience and the year of the panic offered all that could be desired in that respect. Mr. Uhl took the bumps of a dull market philosophically and went on making tables and selling them to whoever would buy. Business was not so lively that it kept him chained to his desk, and much of his time was spent in the acquirement of practical knowledge of the business he had undertaken in the factory. As times improved Mr. Uhl found that the business of manufacturing and selling furniture was not so unsatisfying as it might be and he substituted music cabinets, writing desks and bookcases of medium and fine quality for tables. A new factory and warehouse covering an area of 60 by 800 feet was erected and upon its walls were inscribed the name under which Mr. Uhl transacts his furniture manufacturing business—the Grand Rapids Fancy Furniture company.

#### **Mueller-Slack Company.**

The oldest of the upholstering corporations of Grand Rapids is the Mueller-Slack Company. J. Fred Mueller who had been for a number of years in the employ of the Phoenix Furniture Company, and A. W. Slack founded the business more than a decade ago and have since directed the affairs of the corpora-

tion. A large factory and warehouse on North Canal street, owned by the company is occupied in the manufacture of parlor suites, couches and turkish rockers, covered with leather and fabrics, also odd pieces in parlor work. The trade of the company extends to many states. Since the commencement of business its volume of trade has grown steadily.

**Harvey Bissell** was a native of New York State, and born at Albany, January 27, 1826. He received his education in the common schools and at Hamilton college. He was employed as a clerk in his father's store until he became 22 years of age, when the family removed to Racine, Wis. Early in life he learned the trade of carpentering which he followed for a number of years; he spent two years as traveling salesman for a Cincinnati house and was for some time engaged in the lumber business in Wisconsin with his brother-in-law.

After the close of the war, in 1865, Mr. Bissell engaged in the fancy grocery and bakery business at Pithole Boro, a small village in the oil fields of Pennsylvania. Disposing of his business in 1868, he removed to Titusville, the same state, where he remained but a short time and removed to Oneonta, Otsego County, N. Y., and engaged in the same business. Here he remained until 1870, when he again disposed of his stock and after spending one year at Pittsburg, Pa., returned to Grand Rapids where he had previously spent some time, and engaged as traveling salesman with the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Co., and sold the first bill of sweepers ever purchased by Field, Leiter & Co., of Chicago.

Mrs. Lucy Bissell, whose mother was Rebecca (Newman) Hoyt, and whose father, Isaac Hoyt, was a descendant of Simon Hoyt, was born in the town of Lock in the state of New York, in 1827. Disposing of the farm in New York, they moved to Racine, Wis., in 1848, where the parents died, Lucy taking up her residence with a brother who was then keeping a hotel. This hotel was where the Bissells stopped upon their arrival at Racine, and it was here that Harvey Bissell and Lucy Hoyt first met. They were married at Milwaukee, September 2, 1855.

Mrs. Bissell is a member of the Christian Science church and a practitioner in the faith, and is the only person in Grand Rapids holding a diploma from the Science college conducted by Mrs. Eddy.

At the time of his death which occurred on Christmas eve, 1901,



*Murray Bissell*



Harvey Bissell was a stockholder in and director of the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Co., and in his death, Grand Rapids lost one of her most substantial citizens and the poor of the city a true friend whose purse was always ready to assist them when in need.

#### **The Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company.**

In 1876 Melville R. Bissell commenced to make carpet sweepers of his own invention protected by patents. He continued the business until 1883 during which time he made many improvements and rapidly extended the business until the Bissell sweepers were sold in every state of the Union and many foreign countries. The increase of business required capital and assistance in its management. In February, 1883, the Bissell Carpet Sweeper Company was organized with a capital stock of \$150,000, which was afterwards increased to \$300,000. The first officers were M. R. Bissell, president; C. B. Judd, vice-president; J. W. Stone, secretary; M. Shanahan, treasurer. The next year fire destroyed the entire plant, but it was at once rebuilt. The main factory is on the west side of Mill street and there are about four hundred employes. In 1890 the annual sales amounted to about \$400,000 and they have increased each year since that time. There are about fifty styles of Bissell sweepers manufactured which are protected by about sixty patents. Sixteen traveling salesmen are employed who give their entire time to the work. There have been many additions to the factory, one of which has just been completed. The factory now has eighteen acres of floor space. There are branch factories in Toronto, Ontario, and in Paris, France; there are also branch offices and warehouses in New York City and London, England.

The founder of the business was Melville R. Bissell who died March 15, 1889. Since his death, his widow, Mrs. Anna Bissell, has been president of the company and successfully directed its policies. Under her management the business of the company has developed and extended until it leads the world in carpet sweepers: As a successful business woman, Mrs. Bissell is without a peer.

The present officers of the company are: Mrs. M. R. Bissell, president; T. W. Williams, vice-president; R. E. Shanahan, secretary and general manager; M. Shanahan, treasurer; F. M. Deane, assistant treasurer; J. W. Shanahan, superintendent.

According to the state report for 1904 which is the last year obtainable, the following figures show the furniture industry of Grand Rapids: Number of factories, 38; capital invested, \$8,005,713; wage earners, 6,654; wages earned, \$3,239,748; cost of material \$3,582,625; value of products, \$9,409,097. These figures illustrate how much Grand Rapids owes to its factories and how important the making of furniture is to the city. Few industries are as fickle as furniture. What is the fashion today is passe tomorrow. There are no staple lines in furniture. The trade is ever demanding the new and the novel. Great fortunes cannot be accumulated in the business because the successful manufacturer must ever hazard a good portion of his profits on experimenting for future trade. Fashion is fickle and the most successful sometimes fail. The most artistic designer does not always please. But the very risks of the business are enticing and the man who has once been a furniture manufacturer seldom is contented in other lines of business or trade. Grand Rapids has seen many furniture manufacturers go to other lines, or retire for a few years only to return to the fascinating game of pleasing the public with fine furniture. The business is exacting; it demands abilities of a high order. Competition is keen; skill is matched against skill; design against design; Grand Rapids against the world. Furniture has made Grand Rapids famous.

**William Winegar** was one of the successful business men who helped to lay the foundation on which Grand Rapids is rapidly becoming a great industrial center. As was the case with the majority of those who did most to build up the city in an earlier period, his capital when he began business consisted largely of those sterling personal qualities which make for success.

His cash investment at first was small, but supplemented by energy, shrewdness, persistence and those most essential qualities of all, honesty and reliability, it sufficed as a foundation for a large and successful business which he conducted to the day of his death.

As he accumulated capital instead of hoarding it or putting it into interest bearing securities, he invested it in industrial enterprises, thus contributing in a way materially toward the growth and prosperity of the town. Mr. Winegar never lost



*Samuel W. Vinegar*





his interest in his home city and its enterprises, and in all such his judgment was highly esteemed.

He was a man of strict integrity, whose word was as good as his bond. He was loyal to his friends, and they always knew where to find him, in sunshine or in storm. His energy was tireless, and when he had once set out to accomplish an object, he allowed no obstacles to defeat his purpose.

William Winegar was born on the first day of January, 1826, in the town of Gaines, County of Orleans, and State of New York. He was the son of John and Susan (Perry) Winegar, and was one of twelve children, four boys and eight girls, ten of whom lived to be men and women, two dying in infancy. The names of his brothers and sisters who lived to be men and women were: John M., Louisa, Catherine, Emeline, Julia, Henry, Samuel, Jeanette and Harriet. They have passed away with the exception of Julia and Henry.

His earliest remembrance of home is at the age of five years, when he was living in Clarkson, Monroe county, N. Y. He lived there until the year 1835, when his mother died at the age of forty-four years; then they moved to the town of Farmington, Oakland county, Mich. His father had no brothers, and was a wool carder and clothier in his early days. He died at the age of sixty-eight years in the year 1852, in the town of Fowlerville, Livingston county, Mich. His mother was one of twelve children, all of whom lived in western New York. The Perry family were agricultural people.

He lived in the town of Farmington, Oakland county, Mich., until the year 1840, when he went to Detroit, Mich., and attended school, working his way through in winter, and farming in summer, continuing in that way until he was about seventeen years of age. He returned to the state of New York in the year 1844, and went to school a part of the summer and taught school the following winter in the log school house where he had learned his "A. B. C's."

In the latter part of 1844 he went to Rochester, N. Y., with a capital of three dollars, and started in business, selling Yankee notions, etc., a business that he followed for about five years, when he went to Elkhart, Ind., where his sister lived. He remained there until July, 1851, when he married Miss Emma E. Smith at Grass Lake, Jackson county, Mich. Of that marriage

two children were born: Mary S., who died in 1873, and William S. On the 11th day of November, 1856, his wife died. On the 23rd day of March, 1859, he married Miss Emma Bingham, daughter of Dr. David and Mary H. (Smith) Bingham, of Grass Lake, who was born on June 17, 1839, at Whitesboro, N. Y. To this, his second marriage, were born four children: Harriet (deceased), Frank Bingham, Alice Frances (widow of Edward W. Tinkham), and Louis Howard.

He continued farming and merchandizing in Grass Lake, Mich., until the year 1862, when he enlisted in the Seventeenth Michigan infantry and went to the war. He was appointed second lieutenant, then captain, after which he resigned because of physical disability, in the year 1863, at the close of the siege of Knoxville. His commission was dated June 17, 1862.

He then returned to Grass Lake, Mich., where he engaged in the real estate, lumbering and building business, making sash, doors, blinds, etc., a business that he followed until the year 1871, when he came to Grand Rapids, bringing with him his machinery, and continued in the same business until 1873, when he sold out his manufacturing business, but continued in lumbering and real estate until the year 1882, when he went to manufacturing furniture, and started in the retail business on Canal street, in 1885. In 1887 he built his store on the corner of South Division and Cherry streets, where his business is now located. In 1887 he took Frank Bingham into the business and in 1891 William S.

The business of the Winegar Furniture Company has grown from a small beginning to an immense business, occupying a building eighty-two feet front and one hundred and thirty-five feet deep, a portion of which is six stories, besides several large warehouses for storing their stock of furniture. William Winegar died of pneumonia May 8th, 1904.

The influences which founded and fostered the furniture industry were many. There was the water from the river, the railroad facilities of the town, the abundance of fine native woods, the skill of the early artisans, and above all the indomitable will, energy and industry of the first manufacturers. They were persistent and inventive. They studied conditions and tendencies. They developed the artistic along with the material.

The department of the designers was made as important as the workshop, the office, or the market. The result was that Grand Rapids furniture became popular and remained popular.

But popular as is Grand Rapids furniture its popularity can be maintained only by a continuation of the same policies which in early days developed its beauty and strength. The furniture industry should invite competition, it should foster all kindred industries; it should cherish the inventive and artistic spirit of its operatives and artisans; it should incite a municipal spirit; it should improve character; so that Grand Rapids will be more healthy, free and beautiful; it should encourage manual training in the public schools; it should establish schools of design; it should do any thing and every thing to make Grand Rapids homes, streets, parks and factories sanitary and attractive so that beauty and morality, and vigor, will be in the air, and taken in by the manufacturers, artisans, artists, workmen, and salesmen and will be reproduced in Grand Rapids furniture products, which will not equal but will surpass the best of other lands and other cities. Above all attention should be paid to the aesthetics, the morality and character of the young, for upon these will rest the responsibilities of the future to fight successfully impending industrial conflicts.

## CHAPTER XXXVII.

### MANUFACTURING AND SUPPLIES.

**William Brumeler & Sons** was organized in 1877 by J. A. S. Verdier under his name and later changed to Verdier & Co. In 1885 William Brumeler purchased Mr. Verdier's interests and business was continued under name of Mr. Brumeler. In 1890 the firm became William Brumeler & Sons. They were first located on Fulton street, doing a junk business; moved later to Spring street; commenced manufacture of tin ware and sheet metal goods. Capital now invested is \$40,000.00. The company employs 36 men and is doing business as the Grand Rapids Rag & Metal Co.

#### **Aldine Grate and Mantel Co.**

Aldine Grate and Mantel Co. was organized by A. D. Rathbone, L. H. Withy and A. T. Bennett, in 1886 under the name of Aldine Manufacturing Co., managed by A. T. Bennett and A. D. Rathbone, president, located at Court street and Shawmut avenue. Mr. Bennett was succeeded in the management by Mr. J. T. Phillips. The company was reorganized in May, 1901. It now has 50 employes and an annual output of \$65,000.00, manufacturing everything in fire places, wood mantels and general foundry business with Alfred D. Rathbone, president, and John L. Adams, secretary.

#### **The Munson Co.**

Munson Co. was organized by Mr. E. A. Munson in 1878. Commenced business with \$8,000.00 under his management; located on Mill street with 12 employes, manufacturing machine knives and edged tools. Present capital invested is \$10,000.00, with 17 employes under the management of Ray W. Munson. Mr. E. A. Munson died in November, 1902. Since then the business has been conducted by Ray W. Munson for the estate.

#### **The Grand Rapids Clock and Mantel Co.**

In 1890 this institution was incorporated with the above name under the management of James T. Phillips, and E. E. Dryden.

It commenced business with twelve men at the corner of South Front street and Shawmut avenue. Its factory has been increased in size to meet the requirements of an increasing business, until now it has fifty-four employes. It manufactures wood mantels, hall clocks and specialties which are sold in the United States, although many of the goods find their way into foreign countries. Its present officers are James T. Phillips, president, Henry L. Adzit, vice-president; J. Bright Phillips, secretary.

#### **Belknap Wagon Co.**

Belknap Wagon Co. was organized by Mr. C. E. Belknap in 1872 and operated under his management. It was located at Nos. 37-49 North Front street; first employed 3 men with an output of \$4,000.00 and manufactured wagons and sleighs. In 1884 it was incorporated with C. E. Belknap, president; J. E. Furman, vice-president and H. P. Belknap, secretary and treasurer. Capital now invested is about \$41,000.00; has 45 employes with Mr. H. P. Belknap, general manager and Mr. C. E. Belknap shop superintendent. Products are sold in the United States and Canada.

#### **M. B. Wheeler Electric Co.**

M. B. Wheeler Electric Co. was organized in 1898 by M. B. Wheeler and operated under his management. It was first located at No. 25 Fountain street, and in 1900 removed to 101 North Ottawa street. First year's output was about \$20,000.00 which increased yearly to some \$90,000.00. This firm is the largest of the kind in Grand Rapids. Its officers are A. O. Wheeler, president; Peter Doran, vice-president and Morton B. Wheeler, secretary and treasurer.

#### **Petersen Brewing Company.**

Petersen Brewing Company was organized in 1901 by Julius R. Petersen, managed by Julius, Henry C. and Philip Petersen and located at No. 296 West Bridge street. The first year they employed four men and manufactured about 5,000 barrels of beer.

The Petersen, Wippfler Co. was organized in 1894, existed for one year and purchased the interests of the Peter Werrich Brewing Co.

The present firm now manufactures about 7,000 barrels of beer

annually. Mr. Julius Petersen was formerly connected with the Braub Brewing Co.

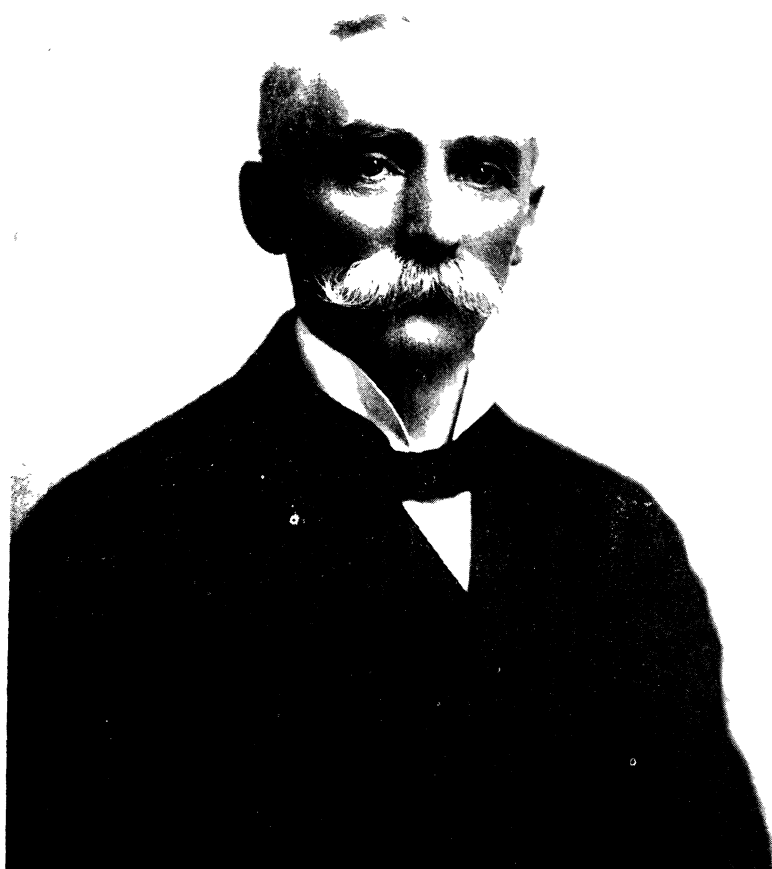
**The Grand Rapids Felt Boot Company** was organized by E. G. Studley, in 1880, at Reed City, Mich., with a capital of \$20,000 and did business under the name of the Reed City Wool Boot Company. In 1881 the company moved to Grand Rapids and was incorporated under its present name with a capital of \$30,000. It manufactured felt boots which were sold in the near-by states. In 1893 the capital was increased to \$100,000 with E. G. Studley President and Treasurer, James D. Robinson, Vice-President, and John A. Covode, Secretary. Since the death of Mr. Robinson, which occurred in 1892, his son-in-law, James E. Furman, has been Vice-President.

Under Mr. Studley's management, the business has gradually increased from an output of \$50,000 and forty employes, the first year, to the output of \$900,000 and 350 employes in 1904, and the products are sold in the Northern and Western states.

In addition to felt boots, the Company now manufactures a full line of rubbers.

**Elbridge G. Studley** was born December 6, 1848, at Claverack, N. Y. His father was Elbridge G. Studley, a native of Massachusetts, and his mother was Catherine (Cole) Studley, a native of New York. He comes of good Revolutionary and Colonial ancestry; six members of his family were American soldiers in the Revolutionary war, and one was a soldier in the French and Indian war.

Mr. Studley was educated in the common schools in New York, and at the Hudson River Institute. In 1868 he went to New York City and worked in a rubber store for two years; in 1870 he went to Chicago and for a time was employed by Field, Leiter & Co., after which he again entered a rubber store. In 1875 he came to Grand Rapids and opened a rubber and mill supply store for E. B. Preston & Co., but one year later Mr. Studley bought out the store and the business has since been continued under his management, the style of the firm being now Studley & Barclay. He is President of the Grand Rapids Felt Boot Co., a Director of the Old National Bank, the Citizens Telephone Co., the Valley City Milling Co., and many other financial, industrial and manufacturing enterprises of Grand Rapids and other cities. He is a life director of the Grand Rapids Board of Trade and a member of the Sons of American Revolution.



*E. J. Macey*





Mr. Studley is a Republican in politics. His church affiliations are with the Christian Scientists.

On April 6th, 1875, at the city of Chicago, he married Miss Ida M. Beatty. Their home is on North Prospect street and they have two daughters, Edith, now the wife of Robert E. White of this city, and Helen Elizabeth.

For thirty years Mr. Studley has been a business man of Grand Rapids and has partaken of the Grand Rapids spirit, and has prospered by Grand Rapids enterprise. He has had faith in the city, has done good work for its industries and has achieved success.

#### **Harring-Atwood, Brass Founders and Finishers.**

Harring & Atwood, doing business as such firm, organized in 1893 as brass founders and finishers, under the management of C. F. Atwood. They were first located at the corner of Pearl and Front streets, but later removed to the Powers building on Bridge street. They now, however, are located at 142 South Front street. The business for the past year was operated wholly by themselves, in manufacturing brass castings to order, disposing of their products in Grand Rapids. They now have 12 employes and have added to the business the work of finishing as well as casting, which is at present carried on under the general management of Mr. W. Hughhouse with an annual output of about \$20,000.00. They also carry a line of supplies for gasoline engines which are sold throughout the world.

#### **Grand Rapids Underwear Co.**

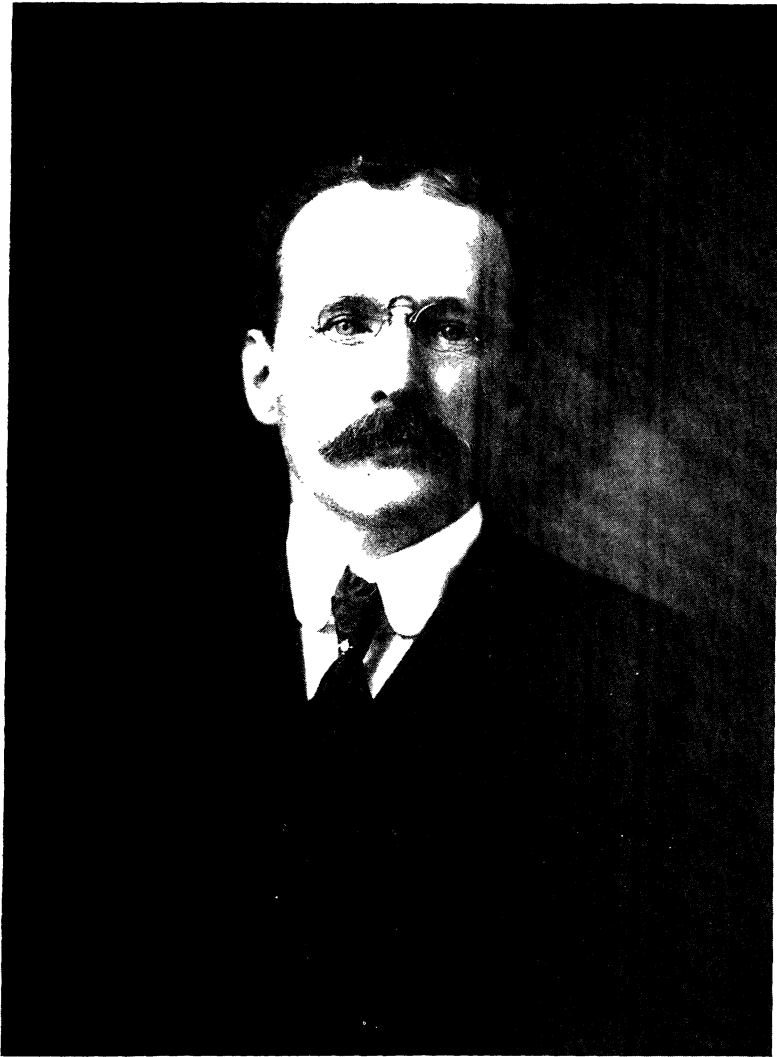
Grand Rapids Underwear Co. was organized in 1904 by Mr. A. E. Remington and Mr. C. W. Hayes, and first located at Nos. 53 and 61 South Division street, business being operated under the management of Mr. Hayes with 25 employes and an output of \$25,000.00 first year. The goods manufactured were all kinds of knit underwear, wool, cotton, silk, etc., which are sold in the markets throughout the United States.

The firm now pays 50 employes with an annual output of some \$60,000.00 and the present officers are John M. Shirts, president, Adrian Otte, vice-president; Charles W. Hayes, treasurer and manager and Arthur E. Remington, secretary.

**Grand Rapids Brewing Company.**

Grand Rapids Brewing Co. was organized in 1893 as the consolidation of six breweries then doing business in this city: the Kusterer Brewing Co., then doing business where the Grand Rapids Brewing Co. is now located; of this company Christopher E. Kusterer was president, Mrs. Maria D. Kusterer, vice-president and Charles F. Kusterer secretary and treasurer; George Brandt & Co., of 87 South Division street, of which George W. Brandt, Elizabeth B. Brandt and Julius R. Petersen were proprietors; Tusch Bros., of 208 Grandville avenue, of which Frederick A. Tusch was proprietor; Veit & Rathmann, of 50 Stocking street, in which Jacob Veit and Paul Rathmann were partners; the National Brewing Co., of 453 Broadway, of which Adolph Goetz was proprietor; and Frey Bros., located at the corner of Coldbrook and Taylor streets, of which Jacob Eisenhardt was manager. Its first officers were Charles F. Kusterer, president; Jacob Veit, vice-president and Frederick A. Tusch, secretary and treasurer. Its plant has been enlarged and its business increased until it is one of the largest institutions in the city. Its offices are at the corner of East Bridge and North Ionia streets and the plant extends from Ottawa to Ionia streets and the company also owns and uses lots on the east side of North Ionia street, opposite its main buildings. Its present officers are Jacob Veit, president; George W. Brandt, vice-president; Frederick A. Tusch, secretary and treasurer; Adolph Goetz, superintendent, and Paul Rathmann, superintendent of the bottling works.

**William C. Hopson** was born in Toledo, Ohio, on October 21st, 1856. In 1860 his parents moved to Ypsilanti, Michigan, where his boyhood was passed and he attended the schools of the town. In 1871 he came to Grand Rapids and attended the High School until he was 17 years old, when he entered the employment of Shriver, Weatherby & Co., with whom he remained for eight years, when he engaged in the galvanized iron business on his own account. For eight years he manufactured galvanized iron under the style of W. C. Hopson, when a partnership was formed with Herbert Haftenkamp under the firm name of W. C. Hopson & Co., which was afterwards changed to Hopson & Haftenkamp Co., and on March 1, 1905, Mr. Hopson purchased his partner's interest and the business is now conducted under the style of W. C. Hopson & Co. When the business was founded by Mr.



*W. C. Hopson.*



Hopson in 1881 there was \$600.00 invested and two men were employed. It now has \$50,000.00 invested and employs from 30 to 35 men. The business is under the direct management of Mr. Hopson. Its products are sold in Michigan and the annual output is about \$160,000.00. It is located at 25-29 Campau street.

Mr. Hopson is a stockholder in the Grand Rapids School Furniture Co., the Cadillac Gas Co. and the State Bank of Michigan.

In 1889 he was married to Miss Frankie Hydorn of Grand Rapids. They have two children, a son and a daughter, and reside at 336 Lyon street. For many years he was a member and trustee of the second Baptist Church, and for the last ten years has been connected with the Fountain Street Baptist Church of Grand Rapids. He has also been a Mason since 1892.

Mr. Hopson has large holdings of real estate in Grand Rapids. He platted the Hopson addition and is interested in another tract platted by Gilbert, Hopson & Griffith.

Mr. Hopson has won success in Grand Rapids and has the utmost faith in the city's future.

#### **F. Hartman & Co.**

In 1872 Frederick Hartman established a foundry at 69 South Front street, in a room 40 by 50 feet, and only four men were employed. In 1879 a machine shop was added and Louis Dietz was taken into partnership under the firm name of Hartman & Dietz. In December, 1884, the foundry was turned over to the management of Henry J. Hartman, son of Frederick Hartman. In 1886 the partnership of Hartman & Dietz was dissolved and a new firm was established with Frederick Hartman, Henry J. Hartman and Edward Tannewitz as partners. It did business as the Phoenix Iron Works, and in June, 1888, moved to 270 South Front street where it has a frontage of one hundred and fifty feet. In 1889 the plant was greatly enlarged. After a time the interest of Edward Tannewitz was purchased by the other partners and Frederick Hartman and Henry J. Hartman continued the business. In 1902 Henry J. Hartman bought out his father's interest and he is now the sole proprietor, doing business under the firm name of F. Hartman & Co. The concern employs about 45 men and produces about \$60,000.00 worth of stock annually. All kinds of castings are made, repair work is done, and hay scales

are manufactured. Its products are chiefly sold in the local markets.

#### **The Grand Rapids Boiler Works.**

This institution was established in 1872, with a capital of \$1,800.00 invested, by James Buchanan, at No. 4 Huron street. It manufactured boilers and smoke stacks, and did repair work. Later Daniel Sullivan acquired an interest. It is now located at 35 and 37 South Front street and has \$7,000.00 invested capital. It employs from six to ten men and Patrick McDonald is the sole proprietor and manager. Its products are sold in the local markets.

#### **Perkins & Co.**

In the winter of 1873 and 74 Hartford J. and Willis J. Perkins founded the business of this firm in a small basement room at the west end of Pearl Street bridge. The firm had about \$300.00 capital and controlled one patent and during its first year employed two men part of the time. In 1878 the firm had its first shop which was 25 by 50 feet. In 1880 it built its first foundry and moved to the old stone factory building on North Front street. In 1882 it moved to its present quarters, 60 to 122 North Front street, which since that time have been frequently enlarged and extended to meet the demands of an increasing business. In 1890 the father, Hartford J. Perkins, withdrew and the business has since been conducted by Willis J. Perkins. The firm employs 125 men and manufactures shingle mill machinery, special machinery for mill and factory work, gas and gasoline engines and pleasure boats of all sizes. Its products are sold in the markets of the world wherever machinery is used and boats travel. Most of its manufactured machinery is protected by patents.

#### **Baldwin, Tuthill & Bolton.**

This institution commenced business in 1889, under the firm name of Baldwin, Rhodes & Co., at 56 North Front street, with three employes. For two years it manufactured special lines, but in 1891 it changed to a general line and assumed its present name. It now has a factory of its own at 103 Sixth street. It employs sixty men and its capital is about \$100,000.00. It manufactures saw and knife machinery, mill and factory equipments. When it commenced business its products were sold in neighbor-

ing cities and towns, but its products are now sold all over the United States, Canada, Europe and South Africa. The members of the firm are Frank A. Baldwin, Mark D. Baldwin and Victor M. Tuthill. Frank A. Baldwin has always been the active manager of the business.

#### **The Grand Rapids Hand Screw Co.**

This company was organized in 1887 by J. J. Wheeler, A. A. DeLisle, Fred Denny and W. B. Bennett, and commenced business with \$5,000 capital, under the management of J. J. Wheeler. It was located at the corner of Grandville avenue and the P. & M. Railway, and employed six men. In 1889 it was reorganized and its capital increased to \$8,700.00. A. C. Denison became president, A. A. DeLisle vice-president, Charles M. Rood secretary, and Oscar B. Wilmarth treasurer. In 1889 it moved to the corner of Alabama and First streets, and in 1891 it was located at the corner of Pearl and South Front streets, and afterwards at 55 and 57 South Front street. In August, 1900, it located at the corner of South Ionia and Bartlett streets where it has a modern factory. It now has more than \$90,000.00 capital invested, and employs one hundred men. Its annual output is about \$225,000.00. It manufactures hand screws and its products are sold in the general markets of the United States. W. C. Winchester is its president, O. B. Wilmarth is its business manager, and A. A. DeLisle is the superintendent. In connection with its other business it also manufactures show cases and handles under the name of the Grand Rapids Fixture Co.

#### **Michigan Stove and Caster Co.**

This institution was incorporated in 1893 with T. Stewart White, Joseph J. Tucker, Daniel McCoy, Mc. George Bundy, B. P. Kenyon, Thomas Friant, Thomas M. Peck, Felix Raniville, D. Wallace Giddings, and Frank A. Stone, and commenced business with \$12,400.00 invested capital, at 286 and 288 Canal street, and at first did business under the name of the Michigan Vapor Stove Co. The first year it manufactured 3,218 gasoline stoves, and employed about 30 men.

In 1902 it was reorganized under its present name with \$100,000.00 capital, Messrs. McCoy, Peck and Raniville retiring.



It is now located at 14 and 18 Mill street and has from 85 to 140 employes. It manufactures stoves, casters and sockets, and its annual output is about \$150,000.00. Its products are sold in the United States and Canada. Its present officers are Joseph J. Tucker, president; D. Wallace Giddings, treasurer; Frank A. Stone, secretary; and B. F. Kenyon, superintendent. The active management is by Frank A. Stone and B. P. Kenyon.

#### **The Friction Set Works Co.**

This institution was organized in 1900 by Edward L. Montgomery and commenced business at 240 South Front street with three men. It now has fifteen employes and its output is nearly \$2,000.00 a month. It manufactures saw mill machinery, which is sold in the United States, Scotland, the Netherlands and Sweden. The business is still managed by E. L. Montgomery.

#### **Wolverine Motor Works.**

This institution was organized in 1899 with \$20,000.00 capital. Its original stockholders were A. C. Denison, James Lowe, Eliza E. Lowe, Roland Lowe, Frank A. Simonds, Edward Lowe and Sintz Bros. and it commenced its business in manufacturing gasoline engines. Its products were first made at the Butterworth & Lowe shops, but it now has a factory of its own at 128 South Front street. It now makes gasoline engines, boats and launches which are sold and used all over the world. It now has \$100,000.00 invested capital and its present officers are C. L. Snyder, president and treasurer; Jules Panigot, assistant treasurer and auditor, and Louis D. Snyder, secretary and vice-president. It employs about 55 men in its Grand Rapids shops, and about 25 men at Holland. Sixty percent of its products are exported and its boats are found in all waters that civilized man travels. It is under the active management of Charles L. Snyder.

**David Forbes.** The leading die sinker of Grand Rapids is David Forbes, who for many years has been located at 34 Canal street. Mr. Forbes was born in Scotland in 1854. His parents were Scotch and he was educated and learned his trade in Glasgow. In 1869 after extensive travels in Europe he migrated to the United States and settled in New York City. Afterwards he

went to Chicago and was there in the great fire of 1871. He came to Grand Rapids in 1873, and it has since been his home. In 1878 he was married to Miss Julia Squires, and to this union have been born three sons, all of whom are living.

Mr. Forbes is prominent in municipal, church and Masonic affairs. He is a republican and for eight years sat in the Common Council as alderman from the second ward. He has always retained an interest in the literature and sports of his native land, and, for many years has been a leading spirit in the Burns Club and the Curling Clubs of the city. His business is not confined to the city but extends all over the country.

#### **Grand Rapids Blow Pipe and Dust Arrester Co.**

The proprietors of this firm are Charles F. Verrell and Gideon Barstow who commenced business in 1889 with about \$200.00 invested capital at the present location, 208 and 210 Canal street. Its first year's output was about \$700.00 and six men were employed at the start. It now has \$35,000.00 capital invested, and from thirty to fifty men are employed. Its output is now about \$40,000.00 a year. As its name implies, it manufactures appliances for collecting dust and purifying the air in factories and mills. Its products are sold all over the United States and Canada. Its manufactured goods are protected by patents which are the invention of Charles F. Verrell, who is the active manager of the business.

#### **Hart Mirror Plate Co.**

In 1900 Joseph S. Hart came to Grand Rapids from New York, where for thirty years he had been engaged in the mirror plate glass business, and organized the Hart Mirror Plate Co., which commenced business at the corner of South Front street and Watson street. It manufactured mirror plates and glass shelves, and its products were sold in Michigan. It commenced business with 65 men who have since increased to 100. Its first year's output was about \$150,000.00; its last year's output was more than double that amount. Its present officers are George G. Heye, president; Hugh H. Harrison, vice-president, and Joseph S. Hart, secretary and treasurer. It manufactures only high grade material and has a rapidly growing business.

**The O. & W. Thum Co.**

This company manufactures fly paper, and its factory is located on Straight street, next to Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railway. It is under the management of Hugo Thum, who years ago while in the drug business, commenced experiments in making sticky fly paper. His experiments were successful and "Tangle Foot" fly paper became an article of commerce that was sold all over the world. The business was protected by patents and trade secrets. It greatly prospered and now has \$1,000,000.00 capital invested, and employs fifty men in its factory. Sticky fly paper as well as furniture has made Grand Rapids famous and its name known wherever its lines of commerce reach.

**The Durfee Embalming Fluid Company.** While Mr. Allen Durfee was engaged in the Undertaking business, he perfected a formula for embalming fluid, manufacturing the same for his private use. In 1889 Mr. Alvah Brown secured a position with Mr. Durfee, and in 1891, purchased the formula from him with the right to manufacture the same, and accordingly Mr. Brown commenced its manufacture which he continued until 1895 when a stock company was formed with a capital of \$8,000 and five employes. In 1899 the capital was increased to \$100,000 and fourteen people were employed. The company was re-organized in 1902 and the capital increased to \$165,000 with Alvah W. Brown, President and Treasurer, Freeman Brewer, Vice-President and George W. Sinclair, Secretary. The employes now number thirty-two; the output has increased from \$10,000 in 1895, to \$150,000 in 1905.

In addition to the manufacture of fluid, the Company carries a large line of embalmer's and disinfector's supplies and undertaker's specialties which are sold generally throughout the United States.

**Alvah W. Brown** was born in Kent County, Mich., in 1865, son of William H. and Lufanna Brown. He received his education in the public schools of Grand Rapids, then entered the employ of Allen Durfee and after three months was promoted to the position of embalmer which he filled for three years and then commenced selling the fluid to undertakers in other parts of the state, finally purchasing the formula and right to manufacture, from Mr. Durfee, and in 1895 organized the Durfee Embalming Fluid Company of which he is now President and Treasurer.

In politics Mr. Brown is a Republican and in 1902 he was appointed a member of the board of Police and Fire Commissioners of which he was President, until he resigned in 1905. He is also President of the Furniture City Driving Club, Director of the West Michigan State Fair Association, Chairman of the Executive Committee Michigan Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, President Michigan Hearse & Carriage Co., of Grand Rapids, Director of the Grand Rapids Board of Trade and until May 1st, 1905, was President of the Michigan Engraving Co.

Mr. Brown was married at Grand Rapids in 1891, to Miss Ella M. Phillips, daughter of the late E. C. Phillips who was prominent in Grand Rapids as a Fruit Grower.

#### **The Wallin Leather Company.**

The Wallin Leather Company is one of the oldest industrial institutions in the west. It was first established in Chicago in 1851 by C. C. Wallin, Thomas S. Wallin and Franklin B. Wallin under the firm name of C. C. Wallin & Sons with \$100,000.00 invested. Its Chicago store has been doing business continuously since it was established more than fifty years ago. A few years after the Chicago business was established the firm built tanneries at Saugatuck, Mich., where dry hide sole leather was made until 1881 when its manufacturing plant was moved to Grand Rapids, on South Front street, and in the same year the present firm was incorporated. Franklin B. Wallin was manager of the tanneries at Saugatuck and for many years was active manager of the Grand Rapids business. He still directs the business policy of the institution but is not active in detail work. The Grand Rapids Leather Company with its tanneries at Mill Creek is under the same general management as the Wallin Leather Company and the business of both institutions is transacted at the same office. It has now invested \$250,000.00 and employs about sixty men. Its products are almost wholly sold from the Chicago store to the trade in the Mississippi Valley. Its total sales are over a million dollars annually and the Grand Rapids products amount to about \$400,000.00 a year. The Wallin Leather Company for many years has practiced profit sharing with its employees with success.

C. C. Wallin, the founder of the firm, died in Chicago in 1896 in his 92nd year. Thomas S. Wallin, the first president, retired a

few years ago and is now living at Elgin, Ill. Franklin B. Wallin, now president, lives at 58 North College avenue in this city. Van A. Wallin is secretary and treasurer. He now has the active management of the institution, assisted by his brother, William C. Wallin.

The business of the Wallin Leather Company has increased year by year and its prosperity has been a steady growth from the beginning. Its management has been wise and its methods conservative. Success has been achieved by industry, care and prudence. It was established, has been conducted and is now under the control of the Wallin family.

#### **The Grand Rapids Sheet Metal & Roofing Co.**

This company was organized in 1903, by Cornelius E. Lammers and Otto Weeber and does business at the corner of Campau, and Louis streets. It has about fourteen employees and manufactures galvanized iron cornices, steel ceilings and other builders' supplies. Its business has more than doubled since its organization and its products are chiefly sold in local and neighboring markets.

#### **The Globe Knitting Works.**

This company has been in business since 1897, when it was organized by E. Alfred Clements, Herman M. Liesveld and Christian Bertsch, and commenced business on the third floor of 166 Pearl street, with eight employees. Its output the first year was about \$3,500.00. Its business has rapidly increased and it now employs from 80 to 100 persons, and its annual output is nearly \$200,000.00. Its present officers and active managers are E. Alfred Clements, president, and Herman M. Liesveld, secretary and treasurer. Its factory is at the corner of South Commerce and Goodrich streets. It commenced business with a capital stock of \$25,000.00, of which \$6,060.00 was paid in. On February 19th, 1901, its capital stock was increased to \$50,000.00; on January 6th, 1903, the capital stock was increased to \$60,000.00 and on January 30th, 1905, it was increased to \$100,000.00. The present directors are E. Alfred Clements, Herman M. Liesveld, Christian Bertsch, John Snitseler and H. B. Herpolsheimer. The company manufactures fine ribbed underwear and other knit goods, and its products are sold by all leading merchants from ocean to ocean.

**The Grand Rapids Brush Co.**

The making of brushes commenced in Grand Rapids in 1871 when Anson L. Sohn, W. M. Clark, Julius Berkey and R. G. Mathews, under the firm name of Sohn, Clark & Co. began their manufacture on Mill street, but the business was soon moved to a building near the west end of Pearl Street bridge where it continued until 1873 when its quarters were destroyed by fire. The business, however, had been sufficiently prosperous to warrant its continuance and in September, 1873, the Grand Rapids Brush Co. was incorporated with a capital of \$50,000.00. For five years the company did business in a building near the corner of South Front street and Pearl street, but in 1878 the company moved to its present quarters on South Front street, opposite Pearl street. At that time its officers were A. B. Watson, president, and Joseph A. McKee, secretary. The present officers are Julius Berkey, president; Stephen S. Gay, vice-president and John D. M. Shirts, secretary, treasurer and general manager. The business of the company has been under the management of Mr. Shirts since 1891. The company now has about three hundred employes, and its annual output is about \$275,000. The capital has been several times increased until it now has one hundred and fifty thousand dollars capital invested, including surplus.

It manufactures toilet, household and horse brushes, and its products are sold in the large cities of the United States. It is one of the prosperous institutions of the city.

**The Wolverine Brass Works.**

This company commenced business in 1897 at the corner of South Front and Pearl streets and is engaged in manufacturing plumbers' supplies. Its output for the first year was about two thousand dollars, and its annual output is now nearly a quarter of a million of dollars. It began business with one employee and now has one hundred and fifteen employees. It is now located at 256 and 260 Canal street, and has an invested capital of seventy-five thousand dollars which has been increased from five hundred dollars, which was the amount of capital first invested. Its present officers are Louis A. Cornelius, president; and Harold C. Cornelius, secretary and treasurer. These officers have been its active managers from the beginning. Its products are sold in the United States, Canada and England.

**S. P. Bennett Fuel & Iron Co.**

In the year 1869, S. P. Bennett with about five hundred dollars capital commenced bringing coal up Grand River in boats from Grand Haven, to supply the needs of Grand Rapids. He continued in the business of handling fuel until his death. In 1890 the S. P. Bennett Fuel & Ice Co. was incorporated. Mr. Bennett soon after died and the next year, C. S. Udell and A. S. Ainsworth bought the interest of the Bennett estate, and have ever since continued the business as owners and managers.

The concern constantly employs about twenty-five laborers and as many teams. Seven bookkeepers and clerks are required to conduct the business. The annual output is about four hundred thousand dollars. The company obtains its ice from Reed's Lake and northern lakes; its coal is chiefly obtained from the Virginia coal fields. Both Mr. Udell and Mr. Ainsworth give the business of the concern their personal attention.

**Grand Rapids Stave Co.**

The business of the Grand Rapids Stave Company was founded in 1864, when J. W. Converse organized a company for making barrels to supply the old Eagle plaster mills. In May, 1866, the business was turned over to George W. Hewes, John Whittemore and Marshall S. Lord, who continued and extended the business under the firm name of George W. Hewes & Co. In April, 1874, the business was turned over to the Union Stave and Chair Company with a capital of fifty thousand dollars. Sylvester Luther, George W. Hewes, John Whittemore and Marshall S. Lord were the incorporators. In April, 1878, the Luther interests were withdrawn and the Grand Rapids Stave Company with a capital stock of twenty-five thousand dollars was organized. Its first officers were George W. Hewes, president; John Whittemore, vice-president; and James A. Hunt, secretary and treasurer. Since its organization it has been located at 310 and 340 South Front street. It commenced business with fifty employees, and now has employed one hundred men. Its output at first was about fifty thousand a year: its annual output now is about one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars. In 1892 Mr. Whittemore died; since then his estate has had an interest in the business. His son, Edward Whittemore, is vice-president and sec-

retary. In 1900 Mr. Hunt purchased the interest of Mr. Hewes, and is now president and treasurer. The company manufactures staves, heading and barrels. Its products are chiefly sold in the local markets and the markets of Michigan, and the markets of the Northwest. On June 17, 1894, the company met with a severe loss by fire in which there was not only great loss of property, but loss of life. It interrupted the season's business, but the next year its business was resumed and continued as before. James A. Hunt died in January, 1906, and Edward Whittemore is now the active manager of the business.

#### **The Fuller & Rice Lumber Mfg. Co.**

**The Fuller & Rice Lumber & Mfg. Co.**, was organized by James Rice and Edward P. Fuller in 1880, with a capital of \$5,000 and James Rice as manager. They were located at Fuller Station and employed twenty men at that time, doing custom planing mill work. In 1884 they were incorporated for \$150,000, and Philo C. Fuller became active manager and purchased the interest of Mr. Rice. Some years later Mr. Austin P. Irish and U. S. Hayes acquired an interest from Mr. Fuller, and after a short time, Mr. Hayes disposed of his stock to Edwin F. Sweet, and resigned. Mr. Sweet then became president of the company, Austin P. Irish vice-president, and Philo C. Fuller secretary and treasurer. In 1902 C. F. Sweet purchased the interests of E. F. Sweet, and was elected president, assuming the active management. In 1905 Mr. John Wood secured an interest in the firm and became secretary. The present officers are: C. F. Sweet, president; A. P. Irish, vice-president; John Wood, secretary; and P. C. Fuller, treasurer; using the profit-sharing plan to advantage with all their employees who have been in their employ for one year or more.

The annual output of the company is \$750,000, manufacturing interior and exterior finishing which is sold throughout the United States.

#### **Menter Rosenbloom & Co.**

**Menter Rosenbloom & Co.** with headquarters at Rochester, New York, was organized under the name of The People's Credit Company in 1896. It was first located at No. 15 Canal street and managed by Mr. C. D. Chamberlain with three employees,



two men and one lady; the products being disposed of in Grand Rapids. It now has a greater number of employes and is doing business under the management of Mr. J. E. Winters at No. 17 Canal street, while their goods are still sold in Grand Rapids and vicinity. The firm has grown from ten stores (Grand Rapids being the tenth) to forty-two, of which they are now owners and operators, manufacturing the greater part of their own goods.

**William Morman** was born at Minehead, Somersetshire, Eng., May 9, 1815. At the age of eighteen he left his native land to try his fortune in America; there being no steamers plying between the two continents, he set sail for Quebec, where, after a voyage of six weeks, he landed on May 12, 1834, with six shillings of English money. He remained near Quebec three months working at \$6.00 per month and his board and upon receiving these wages felt very rich. He then went to Hamilton, Ont., securing employment at the rate of \$9.00 per month, remaining there until May 5, 1835, on which date he crossed the Niagara river on an ice gorge, an occurrence so unusual that the act is recorded in Canadian history.

Toward the end of May, 1836, he, in company with Anthony Boden, started for Grand Rapids, where they arrived on June 6, having walked the entire distance from Detroit, following the Indian trails through the unbroken forests. Grand Rapids at that time was a settlement of a few houses and log cabins in the heart of the wilderness. Most of these early homes were built on the east side of the river, but a few clearings had been made on the higher land on the west side. There was no bridge across the Grand river, and the only means of communication between the two shores was by canoe. The first locomotive's whistle did not break the forest's stillness until more than twenty years later. The Indians were on the best of terms with the whites, and were accustomed to make frequent calls upon the latter for board and lodging.

In August, 1837, he engaged in the manufacture of lime on the present site of the Grand Rapids Veneer Works, which business he followed until 1841. In 1839, however, he took up a farm on Section 1, in Walker township, and five years later moved there, where he resided until 1858. He sold this property in 1883. On July 13, 1858, he bought of H. Brooks the lime works on Canal street, and was engaged in the business almost continuously



*Win. M. Norman*



until 1885, when he disposed of the business to his son, S. A. Morman.

Mr. Morman was first married on March 17, 1838, to Miss Eliza Jeffords. Four children of this marriage are now living and are residents of Grand Rapids: Mrs. A. J. Elliott, Mrs. Basil Gognon, Mrs. C. E. Meech and S. A. Morman. One son, Mortimer J., died during the civil war in 1864, in a hospital at Burnside Point, while a soldier in the Tenth Michigan Cavalry. The eldest son, Noble R., passed away in June, 1894.

In 1863 Mr. Morman was married to Mrs. Mary J. Potter, who survives him. Of this marriage, one daughter, Mrs. C. E. Block, is living.

Mr. Morman was a member of the Old Settlers Association and will be remembered by the older residents and acquaintances as a man of sterling integrity, and one who valued his word equal to any written agreement. He died on May 27, 1905, at his home, No. 16 Barclay Street, where on the 9th of the same month he had celebrated his ninetieth birthday.

#### **Fritz & Goedel Mfg. Co.**

Fritz & Goedel Mfg. Co. was organized in 1900 by Messrs. Fritz and Goedel, they having purchased the interests of the Chocolate Cooler Co. in 1898. They located on the corner of First and Alabama streets, and the first year employed 20 men with an output of \$29,000.00. Since then the plant has doubled in capacity and at present employs about 40 men with an annual output of some \$55,000.00, manufacturing ice cream refrigerators, drafting room, office furniture, etc.

**The Michigan Barrel Co.** was organized in 1870 by Daniel H. Waters and associates, with a capital stock of \$75,000. Its officers were Daniel H. Waters, President; D. H. Powers, Secretary, and G. G. Briggs, Treasurer. It was located then, as now, on North Canal street, and manufactured axle grease boxes, wood measures, tobacco drums, butter bail boxes, riddle and sieve, rim timber, bent wood, hollow ware, etc., which were sold throughout the United States.

Col. George G. Briggs was made secretary and treasurer, followed in 18— by A. B. Porter, who is still active manager of the company. Upon the retirement of Mr. D. H. Waters, Mr. B. Gilbert served as president, two years after whose death Mr. O. S.

Waters was made president and served until his retirement in 1895, since which time Mr. H. J. Hollister has been president. The capital now invested is about \$150,000. In 1898 the manufacture of refrigerators was taken up in addition to the regular line and the company now has two hundred employes; the annual output is \$225,000, and their goods are sold in the general markets of the United States.

**Mrs. Prudence Tower**, who died at Grand Rapids, March 5, 1905, was the last survivor of the "Dexter band," who were the first settlers of the Grand River Valley in 1833. She was born in Herkimer County, New York, April 22, 1822. Her father was Samuel Dexter, the leader of the "Dexter Band." Her mother was Anna Fargo Dexter. Samuel Dexter on the side of his mother, who was a Winsor, was descended from Roger Williams, famous in New England Colonial history. On his father's side Samuel Dexter was descended from Rev. Gregory Dexter, a Baptist minister of New England, cotemporary with Roger Williams. In 1832 Samuel Dexter visited the Grand River Valley and located four eighty-acre lots fractional lying east of Division street and now within the city limits of Grand Rapids. It was a tract two miles long by eighty rods wide. His name is perpetuated in the history of Grand Rapids real estate titles in the "Dexter Fraction."

Prudence was the fifth child of Samuel Dexter. Until her twelfth year she had the advantages of the country schools of Herkimer County. When the family migrated to Michigan in 1833 Prudence on the way had an attack of scarlet fever which left her with impaired eye-sight so that for several years she could not see to read. At times she had to stay in a darkened room, and while the family were living in a wigwam a blanket was hung up in one corner, so that Prudence could have a dark spot in which to rest her eyes. During that period her grandmother read to her over and over again such books as the emigrants had brought with them and such papers and letters as found their way to the Valley. There was also a private school at her father's house and she imbibed such knowledge as she could obtain without reading, as her eyes were too weak for study. She developed a wonderful memory and in later life was an omnivorous reader.

In 1837 she married William Dallas, a surveyor, and the first



*Prudence Jordan*



County Clerk of Ionia County. She lived with him at Ionia four years until his death and during that time became the mother of two sons, one of whom died in infancy, and one of whom, John S. Dallas, is now a resident of San Francisco.

June 24, 1847, she married Daniel F. Tower of Grand Rapids, and became a resident of the Valley City. Her first home was on the corner of North Ottawa street and Crescent avenue, where now is the police headquarters. Mr. Tower was a contractor and manufacturer and made the first pails ever manufactured in the city.

In March, 1854, Daniel F. Tower moved onto a farm in Oakfield township where he lived until 1864, and Mrs. Tower again experienced the joys and the sorrows, hardships and triumphs of pioneer life of which she was a part in early days on the Grand River at Ionia. Mr. Tower's father, Isaac Tower, was one of the first settlers in Oakfield township.

In 1864 the family moved to Grand Rapids. For a time the family lived in a house on the site of the State Bank of Michigan. They also lived in a house on the site of the postoffice building which they occupied until about the time the present federal building was constructed. In 1875 the family moved to 531 Jefferson avenue, which is still the family residence, and where Mr. Daniel F. Tower died December 9, 1878.

By her second husband Mrs. Tower was the mother of five children: Elizabeth H., Belle M., Ellen Amelia, Daniel W., and Carl Schurtz. Ellen Amelia died in infancy, Carl Schurtz died when four years old, and Elizabeth H. died May 19, 1906, Belle M. and Daniel W. still live at the old home.

In early life Mrs. Tower followed the family traditions in her religious affiliations and was a Baptist, in middle life she became a liberal and took a deep interest in spiritual philosophy and psychical study. She was a sweet amiable character of domestic tastes and fine sensibilities who did her share not only in bringing by toil and sacrifice material prosperity to the Grand River Valley, but by precept and example in developing among the people a desire for noble thoughts and a righteous life.

That she possessed literary ability is shown by the following paper she prepared for the sixtieth anniversary of the settlement of Ionia. Like Scott's "Sixty Years After," it has a charm of narration that makes the reader see the life behind the descriptions of the canal boat, the wagons, the forests, and the wigwams.



"Some recollections of my father, Samuel Dexter, and the pioneers that first settled in Ionia; of their journey and arrival at Ionia:

"My father visited Michigan in the fall of 1832, and through letters which he published, others were induced to come to Michigan.

"My father and Mr. Erastus Yeomans bought a canal boat, a scow, and fitted it up to move the families and as many of our household goods as possible to Buffalo.

"We started from Frankfort Village, Herkimer County, N. Y., April 22, 1833, with three families: Mr. Yeomans', Oliver Arnold's and Samuel Dexter's, using their own horses to draw the boat.

"The boat's name was 'Walk-in-the-Water,' but some one wrote on the side of the boat with chalk 'Michigan Caravan.'

"I think at Utica Mr. Joel Guild and his brother Edward and families embarked with us. We traveled by day and at night had to go ashore to sleep at hotels.

"At Syracuse Mr. Darius Winsor and family cast their lot with the rest.

"The boat was a motley sight, as the deck was piled with wagons taken to pieces and bound on, and every other conceivable thing that could be taken to use in a country where there was nothing to be bought.

"From Buffalo to Detroit we came by steamer 'Superior.' Of our trip on the lake I remember little besides sea-sickness.

"At Detroit we procured oxen and cows, and as much cooked provisions as possible, and started on our journey through the wilderness. There were sixty-three people all told in the party.

"The first day out from Detroit we could make but seven miles because the roads were so heavy.

"At Pontiac we stayed one night. This was at that time a very small place and had rather a hard name, so much so that, if any one wanted to send a person to a bad place, he would say 'You go to Pontiac.'

"About twenty miles west of Pontiac we stopped one night with a Mr. Gage and his young wife and baby. I think they had no neighbors nearer than Pontiac and he complained that neighbors were getting too near, their hogs bothered him.

"From that time we had to camp out nights. At Shiawassee

there was one French family, also two brothers by the name of Williams who were Indian traders. One of them my father hired to pilot us through to Ionia.

“From Shiawassee there had never been a wagon through, and much of the way we had to cut the road as we went along.

“At Shiawassee there were three children sick with Canker Rash or Scarlet Fever: a son of Edward Guild, myself and youngest brother, Riley Dexter. We staid over one day during a heavy rain storm. The Guild boy and myself soon got better, but little brother grew worse, and when we were in the heavy timber land about thirty miles east of Ionia, the dear little boy died about four o’clock in the afternoon.

“Mr. Guild had a small trunk which he let us use for a coffin and he was laid in the grave by the light of the camp fires which were burning. My father made a feeling prayer before the coffin was placed in the grave. They piled the grave high with logs to protect it from wolves, and also carved his name, age and date of death on a large tree before leaving the place.

“There was a French trader living at Muir who had a squaw for a wife. His name was Genereaux. There was also a white man at Lyons by the name of Belcher. Those were all the inhabitants on the river, except Indians, until you reached Grand Rapids, and I think there were but two white families there.

“I must tell you that most of the teams that brought us through from Detroit were ox teams. We had much trouble in crossing marshes and fording streams.

“Many women walked and sometimes when we got stuck in the marshes the men had to carry them ashore.

“At night when we camped the men would build great fires by a log and the women would cook the meals. They had to bake biscuits in tin bakes set up in front of the fire. I think those were times that tried women’s souls.

“When we arrived at Ionia there was a large company of Indians living there. They had planted corn, and melons and squashes, and did not like to leave; but through the aid of our interpreter, father was able to pay them for their improvements and they left peaceably.

“There were five wigwams built of bark. Four of them were down by the river. They were very small, not more than ten feet square. Each had two bunks on one side, one above the

other. The other wigwam was a few rods south and east of where the Novelty Mill now stands, in the midst of the corn field. This one was twelve or fourteen feet square with a doorway at each end at which we hung up blankets for doors. My father's family occupied this one. On two sides of this wigwam was a low platform wide enough to lay a bed. On this we made up four beds and had a little space between the foot of the beds to tuck in the little ones.

"In the center the earth floor was hollowed a little where the Indians had had a fire. The roof in the center had an opening for smoke to escape. It also served to let in rain, and one morning after a heavy rain when the creek had overflowed and run down the path into the wigwam, mother's shoes were floating on the pool in this fire-place.

"Our goods were mostly sent around the lakes to be left at Grand Haven, together with provisions, and as there was no transportation except by pole boats, it was a long and tedious task to get the goods up from Grand Haven. For a table the men drove stakes in the ground and put sticks across them. They then laid the side-boards of our wagon box on for a top. So you see we had the first extension table in Ionia.

"Joel Guild and family went directly to Grand Rapids to live, but the rest of us lived in the wigwams until we could build log houses to live in.

"The first corn raised was pounded in a large mortar the Indians had dug out in a large hollow stump.

"The same fall my father brought from Detroit a large coffee mill with two handles with which two men could grind the corn. All the settlers had their corn ground in this coffee mill that winter.

"The next year father bought a small run of stone and put it in his saw mill to run by water, and with this the first wheat raised in Ionia county was ground. It was unbolted flour.

"Later my father built a grist mill which has been remodeled and is now known as the Novelty Mills.

"Mr. Winsor had a little daughter sick with consumption who died not long after our arrival. Eugene Winsor was born that first fall and was the first white child born in the Grand River Valley.

"I want to pay this tribute to the Indians. They were very



*H. J. Pettibone*



kind and peaceable and seldom gave us any trouble, never any serious trouble.

“Prudence Dexter Dallas Tower. May 27, 1893.—The sixtieth anniversary of our arrival in Ionia.”

**Knowlton S. Pettibone** was born in Manchester, Vermont, August 24, 1806. His father was Abel Pettibone and was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. His mother was Lucy (Straight) Pettibone. He was educated in the common schools of Manchester and the Rutledge Academy where he studied surveying and civil engineering. After leaving school he gave attention and study to promology. In 1834 he went to Ohio and for a time did grafting or budding in the orchards of that state. Returning from Ohio he spent a year or two in Western New York and Vermont, and then migrated to Michigan in 1836. He first purchased some land near the Court House Square where now is Fulton Street Park. In 1837 he bought a farm one-half mile west of the river on the road where now is West Bridge street. He engaged in farming and surveying. He made a full and complete survey of Kent County and many other counties in the state, also made the first plat of Newaygo Village. The Pettibone home on West Bridge street is a landmark in that part of the city.

Mr. Pettibone was reared a Methodist. He aided in building the First Methodist Church in Grand Rapids. A few years after the church divided on the question of renting seats, Mr. Pettibone with the minority who believed in a church free to all, and a number of others left the church and soon after became identified with the Adventists. He worshipped with them until about ten or twelve years before his death when he became a liberal in religious faith.

In politics Mr. Pettibone was a Whig until that party ceased to exist and then he became a Republican.

On October 5, 1840, he married Sarah Sheppard, who died May 14, 1850. October 17, 1852, he married Catherine B. Jackson, who died September 4, 1889. By his first wife he was the father of four children, and by his second wife three.

About 1875 Mr. Pettibone retired from active life, and died July 29, 1879. Three children survive him: Dexter S. Pettibone, Elizabeth P. (Mrs. Gerald FitzGerald), and Charles C. Pettibone, who reside in the city.

He was a man of domestic tastes and quiet life with many sterling qualities. He was a counselor and advisor of people in his neighborhood, acted as arbitrator and settled many disputes. He was a pioneer who did his share in building up the municipality and the commonwealth. He lived a good wholesome life and left a competence for his family.

## CHAPTER XXXVIII.

### THEATERS.

The early efforts in the way of theatrical playing were made at school exhibitions. About 1838 a term of school in the house of the Baptist mission was closed with an exhibition, and the village youngsters vied with each other in endeavoring to make it a genuine theater. What the play was is not recorded. They built a platform outside the building for a stage entrance, and with sheets and shawls managed to make a drop curtain for the stage. The actors were slow in the opening, and the boys in the audience began to whistle and stamp and hiss; when John W. Peirce parted the curtains and put his head far enough through to say, "Ladies and gentlemen, please be patient; we will soon begin; we are fixing up a woman;" whereat there was a thundering outburst of applause. The "woman" was Aaron B. Turner, then a slim, beardless boy of sixteen years, who afterwards acted a very creditable part as a citizen and in public life.

The earliest place of regular resort in Grand Rapids for concerts, dancing parties, minstrel shows and other public social gatherings was in the upper part of the building long known as the Old Yellow Warehouse, erected in 1834, on the east bank of the river, some four hundred feet below the Eagle Hotel. Following that, within a few years, were popular entertainment rooms in two or three other buildings in that vicinity. The first prestidigitator or sleight of hand performer who came this way gave an exhibition in the Yellow Warehouse, and the building was packed. In one part of his performance he lifted Warren Mills' hat from his head, and nearly a peck of potatoes rolled over that gentleman's shoulders to the floor. Then amid the cheering and stamping of feet came a crackling of timbers, and the floor began to settle. This caused a stampede for exit, and those in the audience tumbled over each other in their haste to get down stairs. Fortunately the sills settled but two or three inches and were on solid blocking. No one was seriously hurt.

The ball room of the old National Hotel, built in 1836, was



a hall of fair dimensions for those days and was much used for a variety of social purposes, including dancing parties, during the next fifteen years.

In 1844, the Irving Hall was opened, and became a popular place for public assemblages of various kinds, and as a lecture room. It was also occupied for a time as a lodge room by two or three secret societies. At that time also were built the Commercial Block and Faneuil Hall Block, each of which had a room large enough for similar uses. That in the Commercial Block was afterwards fitted up for a Masonic Hall and used as such for a long time. The Odd Fellows and the Good Templars also occupied it. In Faneuil Hall the Mechanics Mutual Protection Association held its sessions when organized.

In 1849 a three-story wooden building was erected on the east side of Canal street, about midway between Lyon street and Crescent avenue, in which was fitted up a hall about 25 by 80 feet in size. It was christened Sons of Temperance Hall, and afterward called Public Hall. The building was burned about ten years later.

John W. Peirce, about 1853, built over his store on Canal street, opposite the foot of Crescent avenue, a cosy room, suitable and considerably used for public meetings, lectures, theatrical performances and dancing parties, which he named Concert Hall. Across Erie street on the opposite corner, two years later, was Collins Hall, afterward called Empire Hall, in the fourth story of a large brick block. This was a larger room than any of the kind that had preceded it (40 by 70 feet), and became popular with the public and with the traveling theater companies.

In the stone part of the old Rathbun House, facing Waterloo street, was a comfortable little hall, much used by lovers of the quadrille, which was fitted up and used some weeks by the first regularly organized theatrical troupe that came this way—that of Langrishe & Atwater, in September, 1852. There was also a neat little hall in the upper part of the Bridge Street House, much used by the earlier German immigrants for their convivial and musical entertainments.

The first hall suitable in size for gatherings of a thousand or more people was in Luce's block, corner of Monroe and Ottawa streets, erected in 1856. It was provided with an outfit of movable raised seats; also a stage and theatrical curtains and drops

at the further end. Afterward its capacity was increased by the construction of a gallery around three sides. This was a popular resort for a great variety of public entertainments, where large numbers were in attendance, including political and religious meetings and conventions, public lectures, theatrical performances, bazaars, and graduating exercises, for about a quarter of a century.

On the west side of the river about 1847, the Rev. Joseph Penney caused a building to be erected on Bridge street, near the end of the bridge, for lecture-room purposes. It was not large, but convenient, and was used many years as a court room. In 1853 a house built for a hotel on the west side of Court street, a little south of Bridge, was finished with a commodious hall or ball-room in the upper part. Lincoln Hall, built in 1857 by Alfred B. and Selden E. Turner, was in a brick block at the corner of Bridge and Scribner streets. It was 60 by 74 feet, and popular with social parties. It went down in the great fire of 1875 which swept through Bridge street. The upper story of the West Side Union School House (the stone structure built in 1855) was for some years used as an armory hall by the militia men, and a room for public assemblies.

A convenient and much used hall, for many years, was on the corner of Canal and Pearl streets in the Lovett Block. Among other halls of the past twenty years have been Leppig Hall, corner of Lyon street and Arcade; Armory Hall, 36½ North Ionia.

Nearly every nationality represented in the city now has its club building, where the members, their wives, families and friends hold social assemblies. Among these are the club buildings of the Arbeiter Verein, on Jefferson street, costing \$20,000; the Turn Verein, also on Jefferson street, costing \$7,000; the Germania, costing \$9,000; the Casino, costing \$9,000; Holland Society's Hall, \$6,000; Polish, Danish and Scandinavian Halls, costing from \$2,500 to \$5,000. There are also many clubs, organized purely for social purposes, that occupy apartments of no mean or insignificant proportions in public and private blocks of the city. And a large number of public halls in various parts of the city are constructed and well adapted for the presentation of theatricals, operas, concerts, lectures and public entertainments generally.

Germania Hall, at 26 North Front street, was opened October

27, 1886, and dedicated with formal ceremonies and a musical concert by the German Benevolent Association, a Mutual Benefit society. It will hold an assembly of about 1,000 people.

Metropolitan Hall, built by W. T. Powers, at 57 Pearl street, has been in much request for popular gatherings, and for dancing assemblies. It was opened December 30, 1880, the dedicatory performance being a children's dress carnival.

#### **Squier's Opera House.**

Squier's Opera House was the first regular appointed theater in Grand Rapids. It stood on the west side of Canal street, midway between Erie and Bridge. It was built in 1859, by John W. Squier, and thereafter, until destroyed by fire in 1872, was almost constantly in use as a theater, and for lectures and public exhibitions. During that time it was the only appropriately seated, furnished and equipped theater, and was a popular place of resort.

#### **Powers' Grand Opera House.**

Powers' Grand Opera House was built by Wm. T. Powers in 1873, and was opened by McVicker's Theatrical Company May 12, 1874. This was the first fully equipped modern opera house erected in Western Michigan. It is on Pearl street, in the Arcade Block, a five-story brick building which together with the opera house cost upward of \$100,000. The opera house as originally built consisted of three tiers, the main floor being one story above the ground, and had a seating capacity of about 1,300. In 1884 Mr. Powers enlarged it by dropping the lower floor to the ground and converting the original lower floor into a gallery, thereby making the auditorium to consist of four tiers, which are designated parquette and parquette circle, dress circle, balcony and gallery. Ample ways are furnished for ingress and egress, by a main hall of large proportions on each floor of the building, so that the largest audience can be dispersed in less than five minutes' time. The house at the time the enlargement was made was thoroughly refitted and seated with improved folding chairs, and new scenery, drop curtain and stage paraphernalia were provided, at a cost of about \$10,000. It seated over 1,600 people. The auditorium was 61 by 66 feet in size. The stage was 33 by 61 feet, with scene loft 60 feet in height, and was fully equipped with pulleys and tackle sufficient to handle any modern drops and

special scenery. The house was also provided with a stand pipe and hose connected with the city water pipes for fire protection. It was heated by steam and lighted by both gas and incandescent electric lamps. It has several times been refitted, enlarged and redecorated. It remains the leading opera house of the city, and has held nearly all the great actors and companies that have appeared in America during the past thirty years. On May 20th, 1896, there was given at Powers opera house "The Rivals" by an all star cast as follows:

Sir Anthony Absolute .....	William H. Crane
Captain Absolute .....	Robert Tabor
Falkland .....	Joseph Holland
Acres .....	Joseph Jefferson
Sir Lucius O'Trigger.....	Nat C. Goodwin
Fay .....	E. M. Holland
David .....	Francis Wilson
Mrs. Malaprop .....	Mrs. John Drew
Lydia Languish .....	Julia Marlowe
Luey .....	Fanny Rice

This all-star company played only during the month of May and Grand Rapids was one of the smaller cities favored by their presence. It was an event in dramatic history.

#### **Redmond's Grand Opera House.**

Redmond's Grand Opera House, built by T. H. Redmond, was opened September 18, 1882, by the Madison Square Theater Company. The interior was elaborately and richly finished and furnished. In style and in capacity it was among the first class theaters of the country. It had seatings for about 1,400 people, with entrances and exits sufficient for the rapid clearing of the house in case of emergency. The stage was 34 by 60 feet and thoroughly equipped with all essential appliances. The seats were folding opera chairs of the best styles. There were eleven dressing rooms nicely furnished, the lighting was electric, and the heating was done by steam. It had a stand pipe and hose ready for use in case of fire. Outwardly the building is an imposing structure, 60 feet front, and about the same height, and its architecture is tasty and attractive. It is situated at 117-121 Canal street. For many years it has been the theatre of popular plays and popular prices.

**Smith's Opera House.**

Wm. B. Smith opened Ball's Adelphia Theater, at 68 Waterloo street, October 25, 1875, and closed it July 17, 1885. That was not a large theater, but had very steady patronage. April 25, 1885, he began excavating at 62 Waterloo street for Smith's opera house, which was completed and opened September 7, 1885. Its cost was \$45,000. The building is 55 by 132 feet on the ground. The lobby and front offices are paved and floored with English tiling, and lighted with electric lights. The theater proper is lighted with gas and seated with Andrews folding chairs. The entire building is heated by steam. The theater is situated at the street corner and on the ground floor. The stage is 26 by 42 feet, and nicely equipped. On each side are five upholstered private boxes. The flats are 24 by 18 feet. Proscenium arch 32 feet high. It has six commodious dressing rooms and a large orchestra room. Seating capacity—parquette and circle 500, balcony 260, gallery 500, private boxes 56; total 1,316. The stage is equipped with all modern improvements and fitted for the production of all classes of theatrical plays. The building is of a pleasing style of architecture, and, though not the largest, this theater is among the handsomest in the country. It is the variety and vaudeville theatre of the city with cheap prices. For many years it has been conducted by Mrs. Mary A. Smith, widow of its original owner.

Science Hall, 59 and 61 Canal street, was erected in 1883 and opened in January, 1884. It was at first fitted up as a lecture room and for small assemblies, by an association of Spiritualists. It was then upon the second floor. In 1886 it was remodeled by taking out the stores beneath and settling it to the lower floor. The hall was reconstructed and fitted up as a theater, in which shape it had a lively run of business for a year or two, under the name of Wonderland. It was afterwards rechristened Lyceum Theater. Its seating capacity was about 800. After a time it was condemned by the city authorities, and ceased to be used.

**The Auditorium.**

In December, 1887, Hartman Hall was opened in the Shepard Block at the corner of North Ionia and Fountain streets, and ever since has been the large convention hall for the city. Its original cost, including heating and furnishing was about \$50,000.00. It

will accommodate a convention audience of over 4,000, and will seat 2,300 in the main hall, besides those that can be seated in the boxes and on the stage. At first its stage had no scenery and few stage fixtures, but after a time these were added and the hall has been frequently used as a theatre. Many musical and dramatic entertainments have been given in this hall which was first known as Hartman Hall, then as Lockerby Hall, and now as the Auditorium. It is the convention hall of the city, and many meetings of national moment have been held within its walls and many plays have been given on its stage. Much history has been made in the Auditorium.

#### **The Majestic.**

The Majestic theater at 28 North Division street was opened November 23rd, 1903, with a play entitled "His Last Dollar." The house was not completed when the theatre was opened, and the last seat was not in place until 4 in the afternoon before the curtain rose. The Majestic is a popular theatre, and since it was opened has done a good business. Orin Stair has been its manager from the beginning. The building is owned by the Majestic Theatre Co., of which Orin Stair is president; Alfred D. Rathbone is secretary and Wm. H. Anderson is treasurer. It is the family theatre for the city.

Of recent years Grand Rapids has never been without good, wholesome amusements. From September to May the downtown theatres are open and do a good business. There is never a night when a good play or concert cannot be found, and frequently there is a choice of three or four.

## CHAPTER XXXIX.

### HOTELS.

When the first settlers came to Grand Rapids each pioneer home was a hospitable refuge to every land looker and newcomer. So many stopped at the home of Joel Guild that it became known as "Guild's Tavern" although it was simply a private family residence.

#### **Eagle Hotel.**

The first regular hotel at the Rapids was the Eagle, built in 1834 at the corner of Waterloo and Louis streets, where the hotel of the same name now stands. It was begun by J. S. Potter and finished by Louis Campau. William H. Godfroy was its first landlord, followed in 1836 by Louis Moran, and Canton Smith in 1838. Others in succession were J. T. Finney in 1841, Heman Leonard and Marston C. Luce about 1843-44, Charles Trompe, and Gideon Surprenant; in 1849 D. E. Fisher, then Mrs. Fisher, and after her William R. Barnard in 1853. In 1856, Washington Heath; in 1859, J. L. Heath; in 1863, George C. Evans, and then till 1871, A. R. Antisdel. Since then J. K. Johnston has been its landlord. The original story and-a-half wood house was built upon and enlarged until it became a very capacious structure. It was always a popular hostelry. It was burned February 5, 1883, and the present brick building has taken its place. This was opened November 12, 1883, with a banquet. It is known far and wide as a temperance hotel since Mr. Johnston became proprietor, and has been popular as a medium priced hotel.

#### **Bridge Street House.**

In 1837 a tavern was built by or for Charles H. Carroll at the corner of Bridge and Kent streets, at first called Kent Hotel, next Grand River Exchange, and about nine years later the name was changed to Bridge Street House. John Thompson was the first landlord; next Solomon Withey; in 1841, Truman H. Lyon; 1842-43, William A. Tryon; 1845-47, Joshua Boyer; 1848, Dan Moore; 1849, Milton Hyde. Gottlieb Christ then leased and kept it until

February 10, 1855, when the old wood building was burned, after which he purchased the property and rebuilt of brick. The new building was opened with a ball, June 12, 1857. In 1863, Frank Boxheimer was its manager, and a year or two later purchased the property. In 1864 it was kept by Ezra Whitney. After 1865 Boxheimer was landlord until 1872, when Bonney & Persons leased and kept the house until the fall of 1876. After them came Boxheimer again, who died in 1880; and then John Mohrhard. May 1, 1883, the property was purchased by E. P. Fuller for \$15,000. Mohrhard was succeeded in 1884 by John B. Brittain, who conducted it until the spring of 1888, when Rice & Kelley (Judson E. Rice and John Kelley) became the lessees and landlords and continued for a year or two when Judson E. Rice became sole proprietor and continued until 1895 when George A. Pickle was landlord for a year followed by E. Fullerton & Co. In 1897 Loewenstien & Burnham were proprietors for a time until Samuel Loewenstien became landlord and continued until 1901 when Frank Kane was the proprietor for a few months. He was followed by John Moran, manager. Since 1903 Judson E. Rice has been landlord. From the first small frame building this hotel has grown to be a large four-story block fronting two busy streets, and it has always been the principal hotel on East Bridge street. The original was a two-story structure about 24 by 40 feet on the ground, sidewise to the street, with a portico and steps along the front, very similar in appearance to many later country taverns. For several years after its erection it was a favorite place for holding elections, both local and general.

#### **Morton House.**

In 1835 Hiram Hinsdill erected a building for a hotel on the corner of Monroe and Ionia streets. It was purchased by Myron Hinsdill and by him opened in 1836. It was at first called Hinsdill's Hotel. Three or four years later it was purchased and named "National Hotel" by Canton Smith, who was landlord there until 1850, when he leased it and went to California. Then during three or four years its landlords were Cary & Collins, Granger & Whittemore, Granger & Hall, Granger & Mills, and T. H. Rathbun. After them Smith resumed possession, conducting the house until about 1865, when James A. and Israel C. Smith became managing proprietors. September 27, 1855, while occu-



pied by Granger & Mills, the original house was burned, but was soon replaced by a new one of wood, four stories high. After I. C. Smith, John T. Barker, Mrs. Barker and Campbell & Beach were landlords, the latter when the building was again burned, September 20, 1872. The original hotel was a neat two-story frame, with ball-room on the second floor, and a tasty veranda or portico around the first story on each of the two fronts. Opposite the corner, in the middle of Ionia street, was a well and the "town pump." For more than thirty years the National was the leading up-town hotel. After the fire of 1872 Israel C. Smith and George B. Morton became proprietors, and rebuilt upon the site a fine four-story brick block, changing the name to Morton House, and renting it to Pantlind & Lyon, afterward Pantlind & Co. (A. V. and J. Boyd Pantlind), who were proprietors until the death of A. V. Pantlind when J. Boyd Pantlind became sole proprietor. Under its present ownership the Block has been kept improved and additions made as required. The Morton House has an unusual history. For more than thirty years it has been the leading hotel of Grand Rapids and never for a day been closed to the public, and yet it is said that during that entire period there has never been a month when it did not pay expenses with a good profit. Such a record has seldom been equaled in American cities.

#### **Rathbun House.**

In 1834 Louis Campau built a dwelling house west of Waterloo, adjoining Monroe street. It was his family residence till 1838. Afterward it was leased by the Misses Bayless (sisters of Mrs. George Coggeshall), who kept a boarding house there. A little later it was opened as a hotel—the Mansion House—by James T. Finney, after whom came as landlords, Marston C. Luce and Truman H. Lyon. Then in succession were Charles Rathbun (who changed the name to the Rathbun House), Hiram Rathbun, Dorsey & Thornton, De Witt Shoemaker, Julius Granger, W. P. Mills, and Benjamin Smith, prior to 1860. From 1861 to 1866 it was run by Truman H. Lyon, Jr. In the latter year it was taken by Farnham and Charles D. Lyon, who managed it but a short time, when T. H. Lyon, Jr., resumed possession and retained it until 1870. In 1872 it went into the hands of A. R. Antisdel; who remained its landlord until November 12, 1885, when the house was closed, the place having been sold, and the ground became the site of the

Widdicomb Block. At first it was a story and a half structure on the corner, fronting Monroe street, about 20 by 30 feet in size, to which wooden additions were made on both streets and on top, until finally it was a four-story building. In 1846 a wing was added on the Waterloo street side, of stone, four stories high in which were placed the dining room, and on the upper floor a hall or ball room. The latter for some years was frequently used for lectures, concerts, and as a theater hall by the earliest organized traveling theatrical companies giving regular performances here. The massive building now on that spot is in strong contrast with the pioneer house and its rough stone cellar and affords a striking illustration of the growth of Grand Rapids.

#### **The Pantlind.**

Sweet's Hotel at the corner of Canal and Pearl streets, was built in 1868 and opened by Lawrence & French in 1869. They were succeeded in March, 1870, by T. Hawley Lyon. The block was lifted four feet in 1874 to the grade of the street. Lyon continued landlord of the hotel till 1878, when it was taken by T. F. Pickering, and he in turn was succeeded in 1882 by N. C. Johnson, who was landlord for ten years when Frank Riseley became proprietor and continued until 1895 when H. D. & F. H. Irish became proprietors for a time. In 1896 Judson E. Rice became landlord and continued until 1902 when the house was completely renovated and refitted and the name changed to The Pantlind. Under the new name J. Boyd Pantlind of the Morton has been proprietor, and conducts it upon the European plan.

The house was built and for many years owned by Martin L. Sweet. From him it received its first name. When first built it was the finest hotel in the city, and always had a first class trade. Under its present management it is the leading hotel of its kind in Western Michigan.

#### **The Livingston.**

The Livingston Block at the southeast corner of Division and Fulton streets, was built in 1887 and for two or three years the upper stories were used as a fashionable boarding house and family hotel by Madames White & Moshier. In 1891 it was changed to a regular hotel and C. N. Swithwick became proprie-

tor, then for three years H. D. & T. H. Irish were proprietors. In 1895 and 1896 Sidney Steele was landlord. In 1897 Emery L. Bridge was landlord. In 1898 Edwin F. Sweet became proprietor and has since conducted it. It is a fine hotel, well conducted and has its share of the best trade.

#### **The Cody.**

In 1887 the block at the southwest corner of Division and East Fulton streets was completed and the upper stories were fitted up for a family hotel and fashionable boarding house and so continued for many years. The first proprietor was John A. Baker, followed by H. B. Saynor. In 1891 Mrs. W. A. Carpenter became landlady and had charge for two years, followed by Gen. Byron R. Pierce, who was landlord for nearly seven years. Wm. Nicholson was landlord for a time and then A. B. Gardner became proprietor. For many years the house had been open for transients and was considered as a hotel, but Gardner made it a regular hotel of approved modern methods. In 1893 the name was changed to the Cody and Charles E. Boudy became manager for a time. For two years past Jay A. Pearsall has been landlord and manager. The Cody has a good trade.

#### **The Crathmore.**

In 1892 Beach & Booth equipped and opened The Kent opposite the Union depot and it was the leading hotel in that part of town for more than ten years. In 1903 H. C. Booth was sole proprietor and landlord. After him John Callahan was proprietor for about two years and during his administration the name was changed to The Crathmore. C. H. Mehrtens is now proprietor.

#### **The Clarendon.**

The Clarendon Hotel, at the northwest corner of Bridge and Canal streets, was opened as the Rasch House, in 1878. Edward Killeen became proprietor in 1880 and renamed it. He was landlord until 1893 when John B. Brittain became proprietor, and continued for two years. In 1895 Henry W. Melenbacker became landlord and at this writing is still proprietor. It is a neat four-story brick structure fronting 154 feet on Canal and about 85 feet on Bridge street, roomy, well ventilated and popular.

**Old Time Taverns.**

A small wooden building on the corner of Waterloo and Louis streets was the Michigan House of early days. It was built by Charles Trompe, who opened it in the fall of 1848, and in 1850 was succeeded by John W. Robbins, and after him E. C. Saunders and Ezekiel Welch. In 1854 it was purchased by Jacob Nagele, who built a three-story brick block on that corner. Frank T. Warrell was its proprietor, until 1894 when George Goosman became proprietor and so continued until it was closed a few years afterwards.

A frame building erected in 1836, at the corner of Canal street and Crescent avenue, on the site of the present Grinnell Block, was remodeled in 1854 and converted into a hotel—three stories high, 100 feet on Canal street and 94 feet deep. It was opened in February, 1855, as the Western Hotel, by John W. Squier and Charles P. Babcock, the latter being the landlord. In 1857 Enos Merrill was landlord, and afterward George C. Evans, the name being changed to Bronson House. In 1853 it was kept by E. J. Herrick. Afterward it was taken by Aaron Courtright, who managed it until it was reduced to ashes by fire in May, 1871, and the use of that site for hotel purposes ended.

In the village and early city days there were a number of small wooden taverns in and about the business part of the town, doing a moderate but a living business, in the entertainment of farmers and their horse and ox teams. One of these was a little building known at different times as the Farmers' Home, the Bender Hotel and the Courtright Tavern, situated a short distance north of Erie street, about where now is the location of 103 Canal street. Its lodging accommodations were meager, but it had a small barn and sheds at the rear, next the canal where teams were fed, and the table was usually sumptuously loaded with plain, good and substantial food, and home-made pastry for hungry customers. Among its landlords were A. Bender, Aaron Courtright, and John M. Balcom. It was destroyed by fire February 27, 1857.

Another village tavern was located between Waterloo street and the river near Ferry street, called the Exchange. It was used as a public house until about 1859. Asa Pratt was landlord for several years there. Another, a little south of Erie, on Canal street, was called the Franklin House. It was kept in 1859 by P. K. Smith.

A tavern called the Union Hotel was built by William H. Stewart in 1860, at the corner of Lyon and Kent streets, which was burned in January, 1864. In its place was built the Phoenix Block, with the Commercial Hotel, which was kept up a dozen years. In the wood building Orin Plumley was landlord. In the brick Elliott Covell, W. F. Parrish and others. For many years it was known as Livingston Hotel and Restaurant.

The Barnard House, west side of Market, near Fulton street, was opened in 1855 by William R. Barnard. It is still a hotel and boarding house and is one of the ancient landmarks of the city.

On the west side of the river in 1852, on Court street, a little south of Bridge, was built the American, named later the Planters' House, occupied for some years by Isaac Turner, and carried on as a hotel until 1890.

At 164 West Bridge street the Watson House was built in 1858 by John Watson and till recently used as a hotel and boarding house.

About 1848, was erected by A. W. Almy the building since known as the Arnold House, at 86 West Bridge street. He traded it for a farm. It was for years a tavern and among its landlords were Frank Arnold, John Wallich, Joseph Herrmann, Mary J. Beal, Frank S. Damskey, Nicholas Fink, Frank Schultz and John Bittl. It was closed in 1895.

The Ohio House at 182 Canal was started as early as 1858 by Valentine Richter, and by him conducted during his life, about twenty years. It was afterwards passed into the hands of Frederick Brogger, who was its landlord for many years. It is still a hotel conducted by Mrs. Anna Brogger.

The Taylor House at the corner of Coldbrook and Taylor streets, was built about 1857 by Charles W. Taylor. It was operated many years as a hotel and boarding house, and then for other business uses.

The Sherman House, corner of Leonard street and Plainfield avenue, was from about 1864 for upward of twenty years a prominent hotel in that part of the town, kept by Fred. Saunders. It was destroyed by fire about 1885.

The Occidental, later the Parnell House, has been running some thirty years, at 44 Plainfield avenue, by the depot.

Grand Rapids has always been a good hotel town. In pioneer and village days it was headquarters for the landlooker, the

prospector, and the speculator who was investigating the Grand River Valley. In the days before the civil war when it was a city in name it was the starting point for lumbermen, timber lookers and pioneers to the north woods, and was also a distributing point for local trade. In war times it was a business and military headquarters and its hotels were thronged. In after years came the railroads, the factories and the wholesale trade which were all conducive to travel and profit for taverns. In recent years the furniture expositions have greatly stimulated hotel business; again the city has become popular as a convention town which helps the hotels. The city is never without strangers within its gates and from the days when a candle light in a settler's cabin was a welcome sight to the belated traveler to the present when each incoming train is met with well lighted carriages to escort travelers to luxurious quarters Grand Rapids has always had a glad hand for the stranger and the wayfaring man, and its hotels are never without guests.

## CHAPTER XL.

### THE CHURCHES.

The religious history of the city of Grand Rapids has kept pace with the rapid increase of the population and the extension of the city. The increase in the number of church societies has been about thirty per cent, in the last sixteen years. From its earliest settlement the churches have exerted a decided influence in forming the character of the community. The edifices with few exceptions are modest structures, but commodious and tasteful and in their ample accommodations and fine equipments quite comport with the tastes and needs of the people. In estimating the religious status of the city, comparisons with that of other cities are largely in favor of Grand Rapids. The number of churches here represented is quite remarkable and shows that the residents of the City are stanch friends of the church. All of the mixed population are provided with adequate church privileges, and, with a considerable diversity of demoninations represented here.

**Seventh Day Adventists—22 Cass Ave.**—On the first of May, 1886, a mission was established in this city under the Superintendency of Elder H. W. Miller. The work was begun with six Bible-readers, whose number increased to twenty-five during the first year. A course of scriptural study was pursued in the Training School at the "mission" house, then and for two years at 194 Sheldon street, and six were educated and sent abroad. Encouraged by this successful commencement, the State Conference held its large annual Camp Meeting here that year, beginning Sept. 17. In August, 1887, Elders Van Horn and Wales were commissioned to hold a series of meetings here, which assembled in a large tent on the west side of South Division street, between First and Second avenues. These continued for six weeks, with a large attendance, and won a considerable number to this faith, in consequence of which a church was organized with about forty constituent members. They held their regular worship and Sabbath School at Ringuette's Hall, southeast corner Fifth avenue and South Division street, until May 5, 1889,

when they rented Good Templars Hall on South Division street, at which service and Sabbath School were held on Sabbath (Saturday), and worship also on Sunday. During the summer of 1888 tent meetings were held for several weeks, on Summer street, near West Bridge street, under the pastoral direction of Elder F. D. Starr. He was succeeded by Elder L. G. Moore in 1889; Wm. Ostrander, 1893 to 1897; O. A. Burrill for 6 months in 1897; E. R. Williams, 1897-1899; Eugene Leland, 1899-1900; R. C. Horton, 1901-1902; A. G. Hanghey, 1902-1903; W. D. Parkhurst, the present pastor, 1903.

The church edifice, erected at No. 22 Cass avenue, was dedicated in the fall of 1899, and at present there is a mortgage on the property of \$800. A church school was started in the autumn of 1902, being held in a large room on the ground floor of the church, and has been maintained ever since. Eight grades are taught. The Bible is also taught with other studies to some 28 students at the present time. The church has recently been renovated, decorated, etc., at a cost of about \$450. The present membership is 195.

**Division Street M. E. Church—Southeast Corner of Division and Fountain Sts.**—The history of this church is the history of early Methodism in this city. It was the pioneer mission, and has been the fruitful mother of several now full-grown and strong churches. In August, 1835, the Ohio Conference, which then embraced the Ann Arbor District, resolved to enter this field, and formed the "Grand River Mission," extending nearly the entire length of the river. The Rev. Osbond Monett was placed in charge, and the Rev. Henry Colclazer was made its Presiding Elder. Mr. Monnett's preaching stations were Portland, Ionia, Grand Rapids, Grandville and Grand Haven. He rode his circuit around once in four weeks, and held services in the primitive log cabins of the settlers, then "few and far between." Eastern people settled here in great number, and among them were a few devout and staunch Methodists, whose arrival was the signal for organized work in the growing town. Accordingly in the winter of 1835-36 Mr. Monnett founded the first M. E. church here, constituted by the following six members; Mehetable Stone, Wm. C. Davidson, Diantha Davidson, Knowlton S. Pettibone, Mrs. K. S. Pettibone and Mrs. Eliphalet H. Turner. Their meetings were held in the upper part of Henry



Stone's house on the west side of Kent street between Bridge and Bronson streets. This is, therefore, the oldest English speaking Protestant organization here.

In 1836 the Michigan Conference was created, and at its first session, in Detroit, the Rev. Frederick A. Seaborne was appointed missionary to this charge, but one year later was expelled. He was succeeded in 1837 by the Rev. Orrin Mitchell, whose Presiding Elder, S. P. Shaw, had charge of the "Flint River District," then created, which embraced Grand River Valley as far west as Grandville. To innumerable hardships and privations of his itinerant life was added the loss of his horse, and during the remainder of the year Mr. Mitchell gained an extensive experience as a pedestrian on his large circuit. His successor was the Rev. James H. Freese, appointed in 1838, and during his term, in May following, the first Quarterly Conference was held at Grandville, attended by the Rev. E. H. Pilcher, P. E., the missionary, and James Ewing, class leader. Knowlton S. Pettibone, Moses H. Russell and Thomas Buxton were then appointed stewards of the Grand Rapids Church.

In 1839 two missionaries were sent, Ransom R. Richards and Allen Staples, and during their stay the first reported revival occurred in this field and added many to the membership, reported as fifty-five in September, 1838. The first trustees recorded in 1839 were Wm. C. Davidson, Jas. Ewing, K. S. Pettibone, Robert I. Shoemaker and Harry Dean. In 1840 we find among the stewards the new names of Joseph Brown, Wesley Fallass, H. I. Judson, Cabel Page, Lewis M. Pike ("exhorter"), Thomas H. Castle, Ira H. Maxfield and Alex. Deane.

The preachers sent in September, 1840, were Elliott M. Crippen and Daniel Bush. At this time the use of the Court House on the Public Square was secured for services, which made Grand Rapids headquarters for the mission and added the privilege of regular Sunday services, nineteen preachers in all serving within the bounds of the mission. As there were no churches and only three school houses to be had, ordinary meetings were held in private houses, but barns were resorted to for the accommodation of the crowds eager to enjoy the spiritual feast of the quarterly meetings. Mr. Bush's labors and trying journeys through trackless forests, or along trails indicated commonly by blazed trees, through streams, forded or ferried, or carried over by his

swimming horse, were in that year sweetened by the receipt of \$20, all told, "wild-cat" money, which he was happy to sell for 25 cents on the dollar.

The Methodists, in 1841, bought the present site of the Division street church, of Thomas Smith of New York, for \$200, paying one-half in cash, and giving a mortgage on the lot for the balance. Next, steps were taken to build a suitable "meeting-house," which for want of funds was not completed that year. However, a detailed statement of the finances of the church was made June 25, 1842, at the quarterly meeting, showing a total of \$840 subscribed for the building, of which \$463 had then been expended, and \$310 uncollected was considered good. Certainly they did nobly for one year, for the additional sum of \$186.49 was raised that year and divided between Presiding Elder Jas. F. Davidson and the two missionaries, as follows: To the first, \$24; to the second, \$43.57; and to the third, on account of his larger family, \$118.92. The rule at this time was to allow for the preacher \$100, for his wife the same, and for young children \$16 each. In August the returned Presiding Elder brought with him as circuit preacher the Rev. Franklin Gage, a muscular as well as spiritual laborer. He gave careful attention to his pastoral duties, and also devoted much time and manual labor to the completion of the house of worship, whose dedication he was privileged to witness in June, 1843, though without the comfort of church seats as yet secured. The ceremonies were conducted by the Rev. James V. Watson, a man of ability then residing here in superannuated relation on account of ill health. From 1840 to this date we find among the officers the new names of Anthony Yerkes, "exhorter"; Thomas Stocking and Dudley Newton, stewards; Joseph Escott, class leader, and a little later, Matthew Van Amburg, steward, with Milo White, Horatio Brooks, Samuel B. Ball, Henry G. Stone and P. Mulford, stewards, chosen Nov. 11, 1843, and a corresponding accession of members. The Conference in 1843, sent Mr. Gage again, and also the Rev. D. Whitlock, with Larmon Chatfield as Presiding Elder.

In January, 1844, the quarterly meeting held at Grandville estimated the sum required for the year's support of their ministers at \$476, and made an assessment upon the several classes of this place and vicinity, but the receipts were not reported. Two accessions, worthy of special mention, reinforced the organ-

ization in 1843 and 1844. In 1843 Gaius S. Deane, and in May, 1844, Luman R. Atwater, came with their families from the village of Lyons, where they had been pioneer Methodists since June, 1837. The former was, on January 11, 1845, made a steward, and ever after until his noble life was closed, March 23, 1883, served as an official member. Mr. Atwater was soon after his arrival, elected to the superintendency of the Sunday School, in which he was uninterruptedly continued by vote of the people for a quarter of a century. In June of that year, the 15th, Seth Reed, a young member of some class in the circuit, was licensed to preach.

The year 1844 was full of interesting developments, among them the displacement of the wooden benches—used from the day of dedication until that summer. Only by a strong presentation of the financial needs of the treasury and the prospect of great relief to a few of the brethren, who had borne an excessive share of the burden, did the Board carry the day in favor of the rental system. The experiment of one year was remarkably successful, \$676 having been raised for current expenses and a neat sum also to pay in part for the new pews. In September, the salary of the preacher, then the Rev. Andrew M. Fitch, was fixed at \$350, and for the first time in the annals of the organization the minister was paid in full. He was also provided with a parsonage, a house rented for the purpose on the east side of Kent street, between Bridge and Bronson streets, and the further allowance of \$100 for table expenses! Such rapid and great strides had been taken by the mission as to beget the conviction that it ought now to become a “station” and self-supporting, which was effected Nov. 8. 1844, at a quarterly meeting held in the church, and the following Board of Stewards was chosen: Charles P. Babcock, Wm. C. Davidson, James Ewing, Samuel B. Ball, Henry G. Stone, and Horatio Brooks; also trustees, Ball, Babcock, D. D. Van Allen, G. S. Deane, Davidson, Stone and Harry Dean. The name then adopted was “First M. E. Church of Grand Rapids.” The strength of the Sunday School was then forty scholars and eight teachers. The painting of the church was attended to in the summer of 1845. Both the Presiding Elder and minister were returned in the fall of 1845, and the district, before Shiawasee, took the name of Grand Rapids. Among the stewards of the board then chosen, we for the first

time meet the names of Joel Ratney, A. C. Westlake and L. R. Atwater, who was made recording steward, and then began that accurate work which led the Quarterly Conference of his church, December 22, 1882, to elect him to the new office of church historian.

The mortgage on the lot remained unpaid, and on March 26, 1846, both church and ground were sold under the hammer of Sheriff C. P. Babcock. But, if Mr. Atwater was to record history, he was there also to make history, and give a delightful turn to a disagreeable affair, for he purchased the property and deeded it to the trustees.

In 1846 Mr. Chatfield returned as Presiding Elder, and the Rev. Jacob E. Parker was placed in charge of the station, remaining but one year. It may have been fortunate for him and his people that he was single, for the treasury was so low that two brethren offered their services as sexton free of charge, each for one year, in which position they afterward often supplied fuel from their own wood piles, carrying it to the church on Saturday evening.

The Rev. James Shaw came in the fall of 1847 as Presiding Elder, and Myron B. Camburn as pastor—a single and unordained man. A “protracted meeting” was held that winter under the Rev. W. F. Cowles as leader, which resulted in seventy professed conversions, forty of whom united with this church. In August, 1848, the ladies made the purchase of a parsonage lot, on the northwest corner of Fountain and Bostwick streets, for \$100. We pass on to the conference appointment of Geo. Bradley, Presiding Elder, and Reuben Reynolds as their minister in 1848.

In September, 1849, James Summerfield, a single and unordained preacher of Irish birth, took charge, under the former Presiding Elder. His successor, in 1850, was the Rev. Francis A. Blades, David Burns, Presiding Elder. The pastor’s salary was fixed at \$364, and a house, rented at \$90. Mr. Blades was very popular, and so successful that in the summer of 1851 an addition of sixteen feet was built on the front of the house, making the seating capacity 225. There was also a gallery or choir loft, from which G. S. Deane, chorister, Miss Ellen L. Deane with melodeon, John Simonds, bass viol; Mrs. G. S. Deane, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Atwater, Mrs. S. B. Ball and Mrs. S. R. Sanford, dis-

coursed music, in which they were heartily joined by the voices of the congregation. Their pastor's term expired by the limitation then fixed by the General Conference at two years, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Andrew J. Eldred—former Presiding Elder continuing—under whose ministry there was a great awakening, ninety-four professing conversion. After the regular probationary period fifty-seven of them were admitted as members.

The necessity of building a parsonage was considered by the trustees in March, 1853, when it was decided to erect one of brick, two stories high, 25 by 32 feet in size, on the lot purchased by the ladies, and Mr. Atwater was appointed as the Building Committee. The work was commenced July 6, 1853, and when the frame was enclosed both autumn and the funds were at an end. The ministers of the year succeeded themselves in September. The report at the close of the fiscal year, September, 1853, mentions \$52 expended for a sexton and \$7 for fuel, indicating a growing appreciation for such important services. In 1854 there was a change of Presiding Elder and pastor; the Elder now sent was the Rev. Henry Penfield; pastor, the Rev. Resin Sapp. The latter was an able minister, highly acceptable to his parishioners, and continued to render faithful service for two years. As the manse was not completed, the parson and his family were boarded until the last of December, when they enjoyed a mid-winter removal to a residence provided. The regular expenditures of that year were \$653.50, and there is an item of \$23 for "melodeon-music." At the Quarterly Conference of June 30, 1855, L. R. Atwater's resolution was unanimously adopted, reading thus:

"Resolved, That a second M. E. Church be organized on the west side of the river, and that the next Conference appoint a preacher to the charge, if in the opinion of the Presiding Elder a suitable man can be had for the place."

There had been Methodists on the West Side several years, and in 1853 Pastor Eldred began holding service there, when three classes were formed and a Sunday School was organized. These had grown so that the mother church lost a considerable number of her members, who were dismissed to form the "West Charge."

Mr. Sapp's second year was prosperous, thirty-six persons join-

ing during his term. The Rev. Jeremy Boynton followed him in October, 1856, receiving the average stipend of \$445, and at the end of the year gave place to the Rev. Henry Morgan, now superannuated and residing here. The years 1856, 1857 and 1858 were a period of decline. In 1860 the church was bereft of its Presiding Elder, John K. Gillett, who died of hemorrhage of the lungs, at the parsonage, June 27. He received his appointment Sept. 4, 1859. At that Conference the Rev. Myron A. Daugherty was appointed pastor. He was a preacher of extraordinary talent, courage and force. When he returned for a second year, the appreciation of his congregation was evinced by raising his salary to \$800, and the use of the parsonage. In 1861, Oct. 17, Presiding Elder M. B. Camburn, their pastor in 1847, died here after one year of service in his new relation, beloved and honored as a devoted Christian minister. The second year of Mr. Daugherty's pastorate was prosperous, and at its close the officers adopted resolutions expressing the esteem in which all the congregation held him. The parish had now grown to such proportion and importance as to invite the Annual Conference to accept their hospitalities in 1862, which was done. In October, 1861, the Rev. Harrison Morgan was sent to the district as Presiding Elder, and the Rev. D. R. Latham to this charge as pastor.

The Annual Conference convened here in October, 1862, Bishop Levi Scott presiding, and the Rev. Wm. Rork was appointed to this charge. He was succeeded in 1863 by the Rev. J. W. Robinson. He had just served two years in the Second Street Church of the city. His salary was \$700 per annum during the next two years. This brings us to the Conference season of 1865, when the Rev. Israel Cogshall was commissioned Presiding Elder, and for four years made himself felt throughout his district as a power for good. The pastor then appointed was the Rev. Joseph Jennings, who came to his task in broken health and much suffering, so that he could endure the strain but one year, and in 1867, May 23, departed this life. There followed him in September, 1866, the Rev. Andrew J. Eldred, an old friend of 1852-53, and they voted him \$1,200 for the first year. His work told in the increase of membership, for in March fifty Sunday School scholars were reported as converts, and the total gain of the year was 129, and notwithstanding the unprecedented outlay of

\$2,300, there was a balance of \$250 in the treasury at the expiration of the year.

This numerical growth and financial prosperity suggested the building of the present church edifice. During that winter of 1866-67 Julius Berkey, O. R. Wilmarth and T. Tradewell visited several towns to obtain a suitable plan, and recommended one of an edifice to cost \$60,000. This was endorsed, and subscriptions having warranted it, early in the summer of 1867 the old church was moved to a lot in the rear and used until the new structure was ready to shelter them. Before winter the foundation and floor timbers were in place. Work upon the walls commenced early in the spring of 1868. Presiding Elder Cogshall laid the cornerstone May 16, 1868. On the last day of 1868 the Sunday School held a farewell meeting in their meeting-house, and on New Year's Day, 1869, the congregation went "out of the old house into the new," the basement being then ready for occupancy, and the formal opening occurred June 23, 1869, Bishop E. R. Ames officiating. In September the Annual Conference assembled in these rooms. In order to realize on their parsonage for aid in building, the brick manse was sold in 1860 for \$3,300 and a house in the rear of the church was purchased for \$2,500 on ten years' time at ten per cent. The first occupant of the new pulpit who came in the fall of 1869, was the Rev. George B. Joselyn, D. D., who for the five preceding years had been President of Albion College, to which office he returned after a two years' pastorate here, serving in that important position until his death, January 27, 1877. The Doctor was a man of unusual scholarship and culture, a fine orator, and an earnest winner of souls. The congregation, to complete the auditorium, issued bonds bearing 10 per cent. interest, July 1, 1869, to the amount of \$10,000, which were readily taken, and this work was resumed, so that in 1870, June 20, the dedication took place, with the Rev. Thomas M. Eddy D. D., as preacher for the occasion, and a very liberal response was made to the usual Methodist appeal at such a time. On the 22d of August a \$3,000 organ was placed in position.

In the fall of 1871 the Rev. Henry F. Spencer became their pastor, who served efficiently for two and a half years, when his health failed. The Rev. Resin Sapp was appointed to the office of Presiding Elder in 1872, but died here May 5, 1873. In

September, 1874, the Rev. D. F. Barnes being Presiding Elder, the Rev. Thompson F. Hildreth was assigned to the work and spent three years with this church. He was an attractive speaker, an exceedingly busy man, and an ardent temperance champion. The next Conference, which convened in this church in September, 1877, Bishop S. M. Merrill presiding, appointed the Rev. D. F. Barnes to this charge. Mr. Barnes carefully watched the interests of his flock, and by his rare business tact and ability proved a wise helper during his two years. He was succeeded by the Rev. A. A. Knappen, who served one year, when the Rev. Isaac Crook, D. D., was appointed, and W. J. Aldrich was Presiding Elder. A resolution was adopted by the Quarterly Conference held April 12, 1880, declaring it advisable to organize what is now the Ames M. E. church, on South Division street.

In September, 1880, the church secured the Rev. Isaac Crook, D. D., as pastor, and made an attempt to cast off the bondage of debt. Success crowned their efforts, not only the bonded debt being canceled, but an additional sum of \$5,000 was raised for improvements, chief of which was the steam heating apparatus. The Rev. Henry M. Joy, D. D., entered upon the Presiding Elder-ship of the district in 1881.

No one residing here in October, 1882, could easily forget the excitement and sensation caused by the revival services of "the boy preacher," the Rev. Thomas Harrison. From 1883 to 1885 the Rev. J. E. Gilbert was pastor, and in 1885 the Annual Conference was held here for the third time. The Rev. J. I. Buell was made Presiding Elder and the Rev. John Graham, pastor of this church.

Succeeding Rev. Graham was Rev. A. M. Gould, whose successor was Rev. J. C. Floyd; then Rev. E. G. Lewis, who was succeeded by Rev. J. R. T. Lathrop, the present pastor, 1905.

The data necessary to bring the history of this church down to date from 1889 has been refused.

**Second Street M. E. Church—Northwest Corner of Second and Turner Sts.**—Introductory to the history of the First Presbyterian Church mention is made of the services of the Rev. Dr. Penney and of the place where they were rendered. This house had been built by stock subscriptions and was controlled by trustees chosen by stockholders. On Dr. Penney's removal from Grand Rapids, the majority of the stockholders gave him their



shares in part payment for his services to the society, which secured to him the controlling interest. Leaving his affairs in the hands of his son, Joseph Penney, it was offered for sale. A Methodist succeeded in buying out Penney's interest for \$50, and having unofficially proposed this, as an agent, trustees were appointed, who received that amount in subscriptions and accepted the property in trust for a West Side Methodist Church. For this movement everything was mature, many members of the Division Street M. E. Church residing in this vicinity, and a Methodist Episcopal Sunday School and Sunday afternoon preaching services had for some two years been held in that vacant building; three classes had also been formed there in 1853. All former stockholders consented to the transfer and released their claims. The next important measure is recorded in the account given of the action of the Division Street Church which, in 1855; June 30, recommended this new organization.

Mrs. Eliphalet H. Turner is regarded as its first member, but, though the record was burned in 1860, it appears that the following names should be classed with hers, as they occur in the record of the first quarterly meeting held for the "West Charge," November 10, 1855; A. B. Bidwell and Jonathan Cook, class-leaders; John D. Winterburn, local deacon; Baker Borden, Henry G. Stone, Frederick Rice, William Green, Jonathan Blair, Warren H. Congdon and Edward Roberts, then elected stewards. Moses DeLong and Elijah Foote were then also class-leaders, but not at this meeting. William C. Davidson and Joseph Cook were also members at that time. Henry G. Stone, now a member again of the parent church, was chosen Recording Steward. The Rev. Ames Wakefield was appointed late in the fall of 1855 as their first pastor, having also an appointment in Tallmadge and one in Walker, and B. Borden was then superintendent of the Sunday School. The Sunday School scholars of the three appointments aggregated 126 in September, 1856, and there were reported eighty members, ten probationers, three local preachers, and the church building valued at \$600. Later pastors were J. R. Savage, 1856-57; Isaac Bennett, 1857-58; R. Pengelly, 1858-60; J. T. Robe, 1860-61; J. W. Robinson, 1861-63; S. Steele, 1863-64; A. J. Van Wyck, part of 1864-65, L. W. Earl remainder of that year and 1865-66; J. H. Ross, 1866-68; W. J. Aldrich, 1868-71; L. H. Pearce 1871-73; A. P. Moors

1873-74; Geo. D. Lee, 1874-75; D. Engle, 1875-78; J. W. Robinson, 1878-80; Charles S. Fox, 1880-83; J. W. Miller, 1883-86; J. A. Sprague, 1886-88; J. W. Reid, H. W. Thompson, 1890-91; J. W. Reid, 1891-93; J. C. Floyd, 1893-94; R. W. Wright, 1894-95; G. B. Kulp, 1895-98; Joseph P. McCarthy, 1898-1900; Thos. Cox, 1900-04; Wm. L. Laufman, 1904-05.

During Mr. Pengelly's pastorate the charge took the name of "Bridge Street," and on April 3, 1862, the Board of Trustees was organized under the corporate title of "Second M. E. Church," etc., with the following members: Sebra Rathbun, Wm. A. Berkey, Baker Borden, Wm. Harrison, George R. Congdon, Hugh McCulloch, George G. Graves, P. F. Covell and Wm. Dunnett. Under the management of the Rev. W. J. Aldrich, in 1871, the present parsonage, corner of Turner and Third streets, was secured, now valued at \$3,000, though grounds for this and the church had been bought before, and the building of the house of worship was also begun in 1871. The church had for some years owned a small parsonage on the southeast corner of West Bridge and Mt. Vernon streets. The old house of worship was bought by the Grand Rapids Stave Company for storage and moved to the west side of Front street, near Butterworth avenue, but was destroyed by fire some ten or more years since. For want of funds, only the basement could be completed for occupancy; accordingly it was dedicated March 10, 1872, with a debt of \$5,000. At this time, owing to the location, the present name was assumed. In 1887 the debt was paid and the auditorium completed and dedicated. It has a seating capacity of 700. The church has an income of about \$3,700 per annum, and property valued at \$47,000; hence it is in condition to do mission work. Its first undertaking of the kind was in 1887, when the "Joy Memorial" Mission was established in Lawton & Pomeroy's Hall, on the southwest corner of Fulton and Jefferson streets. This was so named in memory of the late Presiding Elder Joy of this district. In 1888 the trustees bought a lot on West Broadway, between Jefferson and Watson streets, as a site for a \$2,500 house of worship, which was dedicated September 1, 1889. The following trustees had this project in charge: James E. Furman, M. J. Ulrich, A. M. Apted, B. W. Barnard and Luke Palmer.

On Fremont street, corner of Fourth, a mission was founded early in 1889, and later transferred to Third street, near "Lane

Avenue," which name it now bears. A little later in the year, "Myrtle Street" Mission, corner of Broadway and Turner, was organized. Chapels for the last two missions were built in 1889, and dedicated September 1. The sum of \$3,500 was expended in the erection of the three mission chapels. The widow of the Rev. Henry M. Joy, D. D., started the first building project with her offering of \$250, and the other two were undertaken on the offer of William Harrison to pay one-half the cost, provided the lots were paid for. John Widdicomb became responsible for one-half of one chapel, and the balance was raised by ordinary methods.

After the founding of the Joy Memorial Mission and dedication of the church in 1889, a demand was soon made for separation from the mother church, which was accomplished the ensuing year. Joy Memorial Church, with 62 members, was reported to the Annual Conference of 1890, with W. W. Aylerworth, pastor, and its subsequent history may be found in the proper place. The other two missions are still maintained as at first, with no thought of separation from Second street.

The statistical report to the Annual Conference of 1904 showed 366 members of church, and 386 Sunday School pupils. The great revival in 1905, however, greatly increased the membership and the church now numbers over 500 and the Sunday School is over 100 larger.

Class Leaders: W. W. Arthur, W. H. Corbin, Mrs. Bessie F. Gould, H. W. Ellinger, Mrs. Alberta Laufman.

Trustees: William Harrison, John Widdicomb, Benj. W. Chase, C. Elden Johnson, Walter Clark, Albert Jennings, Edwin Stokoe, W. W. Arthur, Henry Smith.

Stewards: John F. Norcutt, A. A. Lyttle, W. H. Corbin, W. H. Diamond, G. Zelner, Jesse Gingrich, Earl Stokoe, W. S. Lawra-son, G. R. Vough, C. W. Purdy, E. D. Williams, M. B. Armstrong.

Societies: Woman's Foreign Missionary, Prest., Mrs. Frances Chase; Woman's Home Missionary, Prest. Miss Nora Edison; Epworth League, Prest. Fred McCaul; Young Men's Mutual Imp. Club, Prest. Henry W. Ellinger; Standard Bearers, Prest. Jennie Weightman; Ladies' Aid, Prest. Mrs. Mamie Gilbertson.

Sunday Schools: Second St., Earl Stokoe, Supt.; Lane Ave., Henry H. Ellinger, Supt.; Myrtle St., Edwin Stokoe, Supt.

**Wesleyan Methodist Church—Northeast Corner of Turner and Crosby Sts.**—A Band of Hope, organized in April, 1873, for Sunday School work, under the auspices of the denomination of above name, was the origin and germ of this church. The Rev. Harry R. Stevens, then pastor of the "Walker Circuit of the Michigan Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Connection of America," accompanied by Horace Austin, a local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church, made this beginning. In November following a small building, designed for a Sunday School room, was erected on their present site, but upon its completion the original movers were encouraged to organize a church, which took place November 29, 1873, and it was called the "First Wesleyan Methodist Church of Grand Rapids City." The articles of Association were signed by H. R. Stevens, Otis Smith, Lewis C. Hudson, Van N. Miller, Horace Austin, Daniel Hahnes. On the 15th of the succeeding month the five last named were chosen to constitute a Board of Trustees, when the more formal organization was effected, with the Rev. H. R. Stevens as pastor, who remained until the autumn of 1875. His successors have been: The Revs. J. B. Selleck, from the fall of 1875 until the spring of 1876, "home supply" until the fall of the latter year; Obed Tapley, from 1876 to 1878; H. H. Bement, 1878 to 1880; C. L. Preston, 1880 to 1881; William Wing, 1881 to 1883; R. H. Ross, 1883 to 1884; O. S. Grinnell, 1884 to 1885, six months, and S. B. Shaw, six months; B. C. Robbins, 1885 to 1887, and the Rev. C. L. Preston after 1887.

At the beginning of 1874 revival meetings were held, which resulted in eighty conversions and so large an accession of members that a church edifice was built, which was dedicated in the autumn of that year, the Rev. Adam Crooks, of Syracuse, N. Y., officiating. The new house of worship was a building of 30 by 44 feet, to which the original Sunday School room of 18 by 26 feet was attached, and has since served as a parlor and for prayer and class meeting purposes, and can be thrown open so as to increase the seats to the number of 230. Shortly after 1889 the congregation began to diminish so that in 1896, when the present pastor, Rev. H. A. Day, was called to the pulpit, the membership was extremely small. At this time, however, (1905) the church is in quite a flourishing condition with a membership of 175, and a Sunday School of 125. In 1902 a modern basement was placed under the church edifice at a cost of about \$2,000, and in 1903

a parsonage was built adjoining the church at a cost of about \$1,400.00. For fifteen years past this church has been united with one in the town of Walker, 2½ miles out, forming one charge, and the pastor preaches at each twice a week. A proportion of the members of the city church reside in the country.

**Feakins Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church** was organized Feb. 3, 1895, by the Rev. O. E. Wightman, the first Pastor. There were twenty-nine charter members. The first pastor not only organized the church, but succeeded in erecting the present edifice on the site given by Mrs. Emily Feakins, after whom the church is named. He deserves great credit for his work. The church has now completed the first ten years of its history. Its membership has increased to 210. The following Pastors have served since the first pastorate: The Rev. G. W. Sherman, the Rev. Ralph Newman, The Rev. J. F. Peschmann, The Rev. George Edward Allen, The Rev. J. I. Buell, The Rev. Russell H. Bready, who is the present pastor, serving his fourth year. The church has recently purchased three lots at the corner of Horton and Burton avenues, where it is proposed to erect a modern edifice.

**German M. E. Church.**—This church was organized under the administration of the Rev Gustav Laas, in 1858, the original members up to that time being connected with the German Lutheran Immanuel church from which they withdrew owing to their doctrinal views at variance with the Lutheran standards of faith, and were thereupon constituted a Methodist Episcopal church by Rev. Laas. The constituent members were G. Blickle, M. Blickle, C. Kusterer, F. R. Oesterle, J. Blickle, L. Blickle and R. Oesterle. G. Blickle and J. Blickle were respectively the first class leader and first steward, and these two with C. Kusterer, F. Oesterle and Julius Berkey—who remained a member of the Division street church, but in this way lent them his influence—were the first trustees. The list of pastors up to the present time are as follows: The Revs. G. Laas, from 1858 to 1859; John Jahrhaus, from 1859 to 1860; Gustav Bertram, from 1860 to 1861; A. Boerns, from 1861 to 1863; Henry Krill, from 1863 to 1865; Conrad Wehnes, from 1865 to 1866; Henry Maentz, from 1866 to 1869; Gustav Herzer, from 1869 to 1872; Henry Buddenbaum, from 1872 to 1875; Henry Pullman, from 1875 to 1878; John R. Bodmer, from 1878 to 1881; Henry Jend, from 1881 to 1884; John C. Wurster, from 1884 to 1887; Henry Pullman, from 1887 to 1891;

1891

J. Kern, from 1891 to 1896; J. H. Horst, from 1896 to 1898; J. J. Bockstahler, from 1898 to 1903, and T. A. Schumann, 1903—the present pastor. For a few years this society worshiped in a hall in Hovey's Block, corner of West Bridge and Scribner streets. This was a frame building and was destroyed in the conflagration that swept away about sixty buildings, in 1875. But in 1862 they built a plain frame edifice of 30 by 40 feet on the northwest corner of West Bridge and Turner streets, where they gradually increased in numerical, financial and spiritual strength, and remained until September 9, 1888, when they held an early Sabbath morning service there, and in a body proceeded to the new edifice to begin their regular services in the basement. The old property was sold in the Spring of 1888 for \$8,300, and a very desirable location being secured, the building of a two-story brick house of worship was at once commenced, and also that of a parsonage, which was occupied by the pastor in the Summer of 1888. This property is worth \$18,000, viz.: the church \$13,000; the parsonage \$1,600, and balance for sites. The total number of persons connected with this parish is about 400. The annual income will average \$1,500 and the seats are free.

The official Board now consists of J. G. Kalmbach, Jac. Barth, Sr., C. F. W. Gentz, Sr., H. Kohlhepp, C. Blickley, S. Perschbacher, Charles Snyder, L. Hintz, W. Fink, M. Betz, F. Hartmann, Jac. Frueh, C. Stolz and F. Oesterle.

All the services are conducted in the German tongue, and the church is connected with the Central German Conference, which embraces Michigan and some adjoining states.

The commodious home which this prosperous congregation now occupies, was dedicated on Sunday, Feb. 17, 1889, when contributions to the amount of \$1,000 were made, leaving the unsecured indebtedness only \$500, at that time.

**Tenth Avenue M. E. Church.**—The prayer-meeting, often called "the pulse of the church," was the germ, the heart, and the formative power of this organization. In the autumn of 1876, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. C. H. Fox and Mrs. Templeton, called a meeting at the residence of Mrs. Fox, 269 Fourth avenue, to organize a weekly prayer-meeting to accommodate a goodly number of the members of the Division Street M. E. Church, who were deprived of such privileges on account of the distance. The suggestion originated with Mrs. Evans. The meeting was organized

with W. H. Herbert as leader. Two or three weekly meetings were then held at Mrs. Johnson's, on Sixth avenue, after which they continued at Mrs. Fox's all winter. Many conversions took place. Of the twenty-four leading supporters of this work, fourteen were "sisters," and to the ladies this church owes a great debt of gratitude for remarkably efficient service throughout its history. Late in the spring of 1877 a larger room was rented. It was part of the building on South Division street known afterward as "Dr. Watts' drug store." This was the birth place of the "class" soon organized by the Rev. T. F. Hildreth. The next move was made July 22, 1877, by fifty persons gathered in the room over the gateway of the Fair Grounds, twenty-five of whom were children. The "Fair Ground Union Sunday School" was formed. The eight teachers met Friday evenings at 486 South Division street. Later the school was taken to that place and named "South Division Street M. E. Sunday School." The owner received \$2 per month for five months for the use and warming of the rooms. A Mite Society, with Mrs. J. Templeton as President, was formed to meet these expenses. On the 7th of April, 1878, the Sunday School met in the African M. E. Zion Church, on Fifth avenue, which they rented for \$3 per month. Up to this date the recent average attendance had been seventy, and the collection ninety-eight cents. Besides the school, the prayer-meetings were held in the colored church until June, 1880, when the Presiding Elder sent the Rev. Mr. Archer to nurse this promising work into a church organization, which soon after was accomplished. Mr. Archer preached his first sermon in the "upper room" over the Fair Ground gateway, where the Sunday School had been started, and his second under the shade trees in the yard of Mrs. C. H. Fox, 269 Fourth avenue, where he continued all summer, to a large congregation. Mr. Archer and others circulated a subscription, and soon bought the lot now occupied by the church. The Rev. Mr. Valentine, appointed by the Conference, took up the work October 7, 1880, and found thirty-eight members. On the 10th he preached in the African Church, and on the following evening, at the official meeting, it was resolved to build a small house of worship on the site already purchased. Building was begun and on February 6, 1881, these itinerant Methodists found rest in their own yet unfinished home. After completion, it was dedicated June 27 of that year,

the famous "Chaplain McCabe" preaching the sermon. The lot had cost \$700 and the building \$1,075.97, the total present value of which is about \$6,000. The following were then members of the Board: Trustees—A. Gillett, G. W. Dillenback, H. M. Fish, S. H. Holt, Isaac Watts. Stewards—A. Gillett, J. E. Virgil, G. W. Dillenback, N. J. Doxtater, H. M. Fish, S. A. Holt, Isaac Watts. Class-leaders—J. R. Duncan and A. Gillett. At the close of Mr. Valentine's year the membership was fifty-six. He was succeeded in September, 1881, by the Rev. Lafayette Dodds, during whose three years the church was lengthened sixteen feet, and a belfry and bell added, at a cost of \$600 or \$700, after which the church was rededicated as the Ames M. E. Church in honor of the late Bishop Ames. The records of Kent county also inform us that on Dec. 7, 1883, the "Ames Charge" was legally incorporated with the following trustees: James E. Ames, Seely S. Buck, William Barth, Wilbur W. Smith, and John C. Klyn. The Rev. R. C. Crawford followed with three years of faithful labor, and the Rev. J. G. Crozier entered upon his work here in September, 1887.

The Rev. E. H. King became pastor in September, 1889.

In the Fall of 1891 Rev. Albert Smith became pastor for one year. He was succeeded in 1892 by Rev. S. L. Hamilton, for two years, and he by Rev. J. S. Valentine two years. Rev. D. W. Parsons, now chaplain at the Soldier's Home, came to the church in 1896 and remained four and a-half years, when he resigned to take the position he now holds. During his pastorate, the church was moved from the corner of 9th avenue and Division streets, to 10th avenue, and the name changed to Tenth Avenue M. E. Church. Upon the resignation of Rev. Parsons, the vacancy was filled during the year by Rev. J. I. Buell. At the following conference, Rev. W. L. Holmes was appointed to the church, but owing to illness, was unable to complete his two years, and the remainder of his time was again supplied by Rev. J. I. Buell, D. D. At the conference in 1903, Rev. J. F. Peschman was appointed and a successful year's work followed. He was reappointed in 1904, but owing to ill health was compelled to relinquish his work soon after conference. A month passed before a pastor could be found for the church, when Rev. J. W. Hart, the present pastor, was appointed, and occupied the pulpit first on Sunday, Nov. 20th, 1904. The church building being out of repair, after some



discussion, the Board of Trustees decided not to put any more improvements on the old building, but take steps toward the erection of a new one on a lot on a more prominent street. Accordingly, lots on the corner of Jefferson and Highland avenues were purchased, and it is hoped that in the near future a modern church building may be erected.

**Plainfield Avenue M. E. Church.**—**Southeast Corner of Plainfield Avenue and Madison Street.**—This church dates its birth from October, 1878, in which month the Rev. A. D. Newton, pastor of the East Street M. E. Church, began to preach in New England Hall, 337 Plainfield avenue, and after a short time this missionary labor resulted in the formation of a class of nine members, auxiliary to the preacher's charge, of which L. Benjamin and H. Bement were the first leaders. L. Benjamin was also the first Steward. During the ensuing winter revival meetings so much increased the membership, that in the early autumn of 1879 a separate church organization was effected, which shortly after received, by appointment of the Conference, the Rev. S. G. Warner as its first pastor, who remained one year.

The church still worshiped where the beginning was made, but in the spring of 1880 the present site was bought, the cornerstone was laid in September, and before winter the frame of the structure, afterward to be brick-veneered, was erected. The legal incorporation took place Aug. 9, 1880, in New England Hall, when the members elected the following Trustees: Lewis Benjamin, Henry P. Bement, W. G. Saunders, Jesse T. Rice, George W. Perry, E. U. Knapp, and John Trauger. In the building enterprise, the Rev. J. P. Force, who came in the Fall of 1880 rendered valuable service. He was succeeded after one year by the Rev. A. J. Russell, whose health admitted of only one half-year of pastoral work, hence in March, 1882, the Rev. Henry Bargelt was transferred from the Upper Iowa Conference to fill this vacancy, remaining here in all two and a half years, and doing efficient work. The church was completed and dedicated in the autumn of 1882, and the congregation had a steady growth. In 1884 Mr. L. Dodds was appointed to this charge, but, painful to relate, was at the end of one year suspended from all ministerial functions for reasons deemed sufficient. Succeeding him was the Rev. W. M. Puffer, who served from 1885 to 1888. During his term much of the debt was paid, the church building repaired and tastefully

decorated, and a number of members added. The Rev. D. Cronk assumed charge in the Fall of 1889, and was succeeded in that year by the Rev. A. J. Wheeler, who was succeeded in 1890 by Rev. W. A. Frye, who in turn was succeeded by Rev. A. C. Jones in 1894, and in 1895 Rev. G. A. Buell filled the pulpit for one year. In 1896 Rev. G. C. Draper took the charge and remained until 1899, when he was succeeded by Rev. A. H. Sturgis, who was succeeded in 1904 by Rev. Charles Nease.

The present membership is 275, the income for the past year was about \$2,247.00. The Sunday School membership is from 197 to 275. The seating capacity of the church is 300, yielding no revenue by way of pew rents, and the estimated value of the property including the parsonage which was started in 1895, and completed under Rev. G. C. Draper's pastorate, is about \$8,500.00.

The present trustees are S. B. Smith, B. F. Edge, F. R. Dodge, C. L. Rogers, A. B. Collins and David P. Merriman.

**Epworth M. E. Church—North Lafayette and Trowbridge Sts.**  
—On May 1st., 1892, the Rev. A. M. Gould organized a Sunday School in a small building on North College Avenue, formerly used as a meat market. After a revival effort conducted by Rev. Albert Smith, lasting some five or six weeks, Dr. Gould in February, 1894, organized such members of Division Street Church as lived in that part of the city, into a class with Dr. Shackleton as leader. During the summer the Revival Band held tent meetings in the grove adjoining. After the tent was taken down the Sunday School was held in the little building another season. The following summer the Revival Band pitched their tent at the corner of North Prospect and Fairbanks Streets when a very successful series of meetings were held. After the tent was removed a large Sunday School and Class was left without a home. Next a board and canvas tabernacle was erected, which only stood for a short time and was blown down. The Baptist mission building on North College Avenue was rented for the winter. During that time an offer came from Division Street Church to build an edifice to cost \$1,000 if the Class would pay for a lot to cost \$700. In April, 1896, the Church was dedicated with a sufficient amount pledged to pay off all indebtedness. Bro. B. E. Paddock was appointed pastor to fill out the year.

Pastors: B. E. Paddock—8 months—1896; C. S. Wheeler—3

years—1896-1899; W. H. Phelps—3 years—1899-1902; F. H. Larabee—1 year—1902-1903; W. W. Slee—1903—its present Pastor.

Official Members: Local Preacher—W. P. Smith; Class Leader—W. P. Smith; Sunday School Superintendent—E. J. Warren; President of Epworth League—Mrs. Nettie Storrey; President of Ladies' Aid Society—Mrs. James Broderick; President of W. F. M. S.—Mrs. Chas. Smith.

Trustees: C. G. Carveth, R. E. Ellis, J. M. VanZile, W. P. L. Gibson, W. G. Robinson, F. J. Woodruff, E. J. Warren.

Stewards. F. J. Woodruff, E. J. Warren, Marie Streng, C. G. Carveth, David Carew, Cornelius Vis, R. E. Ellis, Herbert Taylor, Mrs. J. M. VanZile.

Recording Steward—C. G. Carveth; District Steward—E. J. Warren; Financial Secretary—Herbert Taylor; Church Treasurer—Marie Streng; Church Organist—Ethel Inglesh—membership of 113.

**Arnette A. M. E. Chapel**, formerly called the A. M. E. church, of Grand Rapids, of which the Rev. W. A. Bruce is now pastor, was organized in 1872, by Rev. Charles A. Pinkney, who came to Grand Rapids in 1870. It was then called the Spring Street Church, and Rev. Benson became the first pastor; it was situated on the corner of Bartlett and Commerce streets until 1897, when Rev. Louis Pettiford, with his faithful efforts, arranged for the removal of the church to No. 207 Commerce street, which arrangement was carried out and the church thereafter was called the Arnette A. M. E. Chapel. Among the pastors who served prior to its removal, however, were the Rev. John Collins, for three years and Rev. S. R. Cottman for about one year. Rev. Louis Pettiford came in 1901 and served as its pastor after its removal for a time. He was succeeded by Rev. H. L. Haywood for one year, then Rev. G. R. Collins, who came in 1903 and died in December, 1904, when Rev. W. A. Bruce, the present pastor, was appointed.

**African M. E. Zion Church.—Fifth Avenue, between Jefferson Avenue and Center Street.**—Methodism first appeared in this country in New York City, about the year 1765, where the famous John Street Church was the first built. There were several colored members in that church from its organization. Between 1765 and 1796 the colored membership so largely increased that caste prejudice forbade their taking the sacrament until the white

members were all served. Dissatisfied with this treatment, and desiring other church privileges denied them, they organized independently, in 1796, the first African Methodist Episcopal Church, and in 1800 built a church, calling it "Zion," out of respect for which oldest organization the denomination adopted its name of "Zion."

The church of that name in this city was organized Feb. 1, 1878, being the first colored organization here. The charter members were twenty-three in number, who enjoyed the labors of their first pastor, Rev. Luke Miles, and elected the following as their first officers: Trustees—Jas. Philips, Henry Pinkney, and David Williams, local preacher; I. J. Logan, Secretary, and Susan Smith, Treasurer. In May, 1881, they bought a lot on Withey street (now Fifth Avenue), and built a small, plain church edifice, dedicated by the pastor, the Rev. D. Butler, Oct. 10, 1881. A few years later it was considerably improved, will seat 200, and with the site, is worth about \$1,500. To this and the other African M. E. church, the people of Grand Rapids have at various times contributed generously for building and current expenses. The Revs. Luke Miles, D. Butler, G. W. Solomon, H. M. Cephas, J. Green and Wm. H. Snowden have served as their pastors, the time of their ministry not ascertained, and the Rev. J. V. Given, 1888.

After Rev. Given's pastorate which continued about three years, the pulpit was occupied for a time by Rev. Prowle; he was succeeded in 1891, by Rev. W. A. Fitch, for two years; he by Rev. M. R. Williams, for two years; he by Rev. A. P. Miller, D. D., for two years; he by Rev. C. H. Brown, who finished out the unexpired term of Rev. Miller, of about eight months; he by Rev. J. P. Simmons, for one year, until September, 1904, when Rev. D. J. Donohoo, D. D., the present pastor, took the pulpit.

The church now has a membership of thirty-five, while the annual income is about \$300.00; seating capacity is about 300. It has undergone a number of improvements in the past few years; the mortgage debt has been removed and the other small debts are being rapidly paid off. It has been the keystone of the A. M. E. Zion connection in Michigan.

**First (Park) Congregational Church.—Corner Park and East Park Streets.**—The organization of this church took place September 18, 1836. The first service was held in the dining-room

of Myron Hinsdill, whose house stood on the ground now occupied by the Morton House, the Rev. S. Woodbury, of Kalamazoo, officiating. Twenty-two persons became charter members and adopted the Presbyterian form of government, constituting the Session by the choice of George Sheldon and Samuel Howland as Elders, and Ebenezer Davis and Myron Hinsdill as Deacons. For several months public worship was maintained at Deacon Hinsdill's by the reading of sermons and the occasional preaching of a minister, and a Sunday School was organized. A marked step of progress was taken when, in 1837, April 10, the infant church hired the Rev. A. D. McCoy for one year. The Presbytery to which they belonged was spread over magnificent distances, and hence the pastor and Elder Howland were about two weeks attending the only meeting of that body at which this church was ever represented. They made this journey to White Pigeon, 100 miles south, on horseback. The Rev. James Ballard came here to reside about the time that Mr. McCoy's year expired, and by request preached for them until he became their stated supply by vote of the society, March 29, 1839. The meeting of this date, held at the Court House on the Public Square just opposite the present church, marks an era in their history, since they then and there reorganized as the First Congregational Church of Grand Rapids. Articles of Faith and Covenant were also adopted, and Samuel F. Butler and Ebenezer Davis chosen Deacons, and W. G. Henry, Clerk. The new society was composed of sixty members, ten or twelve of whom were dismissed the following year in August to found the First Reformed Church.

Until then they had been quite nomadic of necessity. In April, 1837, the church worshiped in a building, belonging to W. G. Henry adjoining the house of Myron Hinsdill. From there they moved to a room over the store of A. H. Smith, on Waterloo street, where their Sunday school was more formally organized and improved under the superintendency of Mr. Smith's brother. Here they remained until April, 1839, and next we find them in the Court House aforementioned, of which, however, they had no monopoly on Sunday, as other denominations just springing up at this time also occupied it by turns. Sometimes they used the Prospect Hill schoolhouse, which stood on the site now occupied by the Ledyard block, and occasionally found their way back to their starting point in the old dining-room of Mr. Hinsdill, till a

room in a house of Amos Roberts, on the site of the present Peninsular Club House, gave them shelter. But in 1841 the Roman Catholic house of worship, built in 1837-38 for St. Andrew's parish by Louis Campau, but never deeded, was by him offered for sale. Stephen Hinsdill appears to have been most eager, and to have had the greatest confidence in the ability of the society to get possession of it for his church, and soon after visited Eastern churches and was so successful in his solicitation of aid as to secure the deed of the coveted property December 21, 1841, on making the first payment out of the funds he had collected. The price paid was \$3,700, and individuals gave their notes for the unpaid balance, annually reported as a debt for fourteen years after. An effort was made to liquidate this debt by once more appealing to churches in the New England States. This time it was done by the Rev. James Ballard who spent nine months in 1842 in the effort, and raised a considerable sum, but by no means equal to their obligations. During Mr. Ballard's absence a Baptist minister occupied his place. Possession of the house was taken and on the 2d of January, 1842, the church was dedicated, the Rev. J. P. Cleveland, D. D., preaching the sermon. On the 10th of January a board of nine Trustees was elected. The building was still incomplete; seats were placed in it during the year, and at once became a source of revenue, the terms being "quarterly payments in grain, shingles, lumber or cash."

Mr. Luther Beebe, on January 3, 1842, circulated a subscription for a church bell, and the largest amount pledged was \$25, the smallest \$1, and the first funeral tolling done by this bell was for the death of Mr. Beebe. But the bell, too, had but a few years of life, being cracked one frosty morning and was returned to Troy, N. Y., to be recast. On resuming its place it did good service for this community until the present church was built, when it was exchanged with the Meneely firm for a larger one, the difference in price being given by the Hon. T. D. Gilbert. This church edifice, with the parsonage adjoining, in the rear on Fulton street, stood on the ground of the present Porter Block, corner of Monroe and South Division streets. It was used, with various additions and changes, for twenty-seven years. It perished in the flames, on the morning of November 26, 1872, only a photograph of it and the key remaining.

The Rev. James Ballard served the church until December 29,

1847, having never, during his nine years here, received a stated salary, owing largely to the fact that the church was far from self-sustaining, receiving annually about \$200 from the Home Missionary Society.

Mr. Ballard left his lasting impress on the new settlement and the church, for he was a man of great zeal and energy, and with great devotion fostered the cause of religion and education. The Rev. Thomas Jones succeeded him serving as pastor for two and a half years with a previously unequaled success, the fruit of which was the accession of 140 members during his brief stay. During his time the rotary system of electing Deacons was adopted. His successor, the Rev. H. L. Hammond, was installed June 15, 1851, and served until April 4, 1856, when he resigned on account of a bronchial trouble that disqualified him for the pulpit. Several noteworthy events fell within his pastorate there. First, letters of dismissal were granted to several to form a Second Congregational Church, which, with the Rev. James Ballard as its pastor, worshiped in the edifice belonging to the Swedenborgian Society, and was disbanded about 1856; secondly, letters of dismissal were granted in October, 1855, to Sarell Wood and eleven others to found the First Presbyterian Church on the west side; thirdly, in 1855 the house of worship was enlarged to accommodate the growing congregation; fourthly, an organ was purchased for \$1,000, which, with the additions made to it on its removal to the new church was in use until 1886, when it gave place to the finer one which they now have; and, fifthly, through the exertions of this efficient worker the debt of fourteen years' standing was paid in full.

The next pastor, not easily forgotten by those who knew him, was the Rev. S. S. N. Greeley, of Great Barrington, Mass., who commenced his labors here May 10, 1857. In December, 1862, he joined the army as a Chaplain, retaining his relations to the church until July, 1863; the Rev. Wm. L. Page supplying the pulpit during the half year's absence of the pastor. During this pastorate 190 were admitted to the church.

The late Rev. J. Morgan Smith followed, beginning his labors, as stated supply, in September, 1863, which were terminated by his death, at Dansville, N. Y., October 1, 1883. Beautiful memorial tablets, suitably inscribed and recording the appreciation of the church of their former pastors, the Revs. James Ballard and J. Morgan Smith, adorn the paneled walls on either side of the

pulpit. During Mr. Smith's pastorate of twenty years there was prosperity and growth in all departments of church work. The two missions, which have become independent churches, viz., the Second Congregational Church on Plainfield avenue, originally located on Canal street just south of East Leonard, and the South Congregational Church, on the northeast corner of Center and McDowell streets, were begun and fostered to their present prosperous condition. The society also outgrew its old building as early as 1867, when it was sold, together with the residence upon the same grounds, for the sum of \$12,000, which was to be used for a new building, upon which they decided to expend \$75,000. The balance was raised by subscription. The present fine structure having a seating capacity of 1,100, was erected, and the last payment upon it was made in 1879, leaving the organization without any debt. Great credit is due to the ladies who for the furnishing of the sanctuary raised nearly \$8,000, besides making the carpets and cushions. The baptismal font was given by Mrs. Gregory and her class, and the pulpit Bible was the dying gift of Mrs. Elizabeth T. Gilbert.

This building was dedicated November 28, 1869, the Rev. William De Loss Love preaching the sermon. The whole number of persons admitted to membership up to the close of 1884 was 1,405, and the present actual resident membership is about 575.

For one year after the loss of their greatly lamented pastor, J. Morgan Smith, the church was without a minister of its own, but Prof. James T. Hyde, of the Chicago Congregational Theological Seminary, supplied the pulpit until the present incumbent, the Rev. Alexander R. Merriam, of Easthampton, Mass., was installed on September 30, 1884. At the opening of his pastorate here there was set on foot and carried into execution a movement to rear a monument to the memory of their late pastor, and the "Smith Memorial Church," northwest corner of Wealthy avenue and Finney street, is the beautiful and worthy result. It was built by the generous mother of three of our city churches, and named in honor of the late Rev. J. Morgan Smith, and a society of fifty members was organized to occupy it. Late in the summer of 1887 an extensive renovation of the church took place at an outlay of \$7,500. In May, 1889, the commodious residence on North Lafayette street, occupied by the pastor for two years previous, was purchased for \$7,500 as a parsonage.

On June 1, 1892, Rev. Dan F. Bradley was installed pastor of



the church. About the time of his entering upon the work, the Plymouth church was organized, and later, the East, and Barker Memorial church. In 1899 the congregational union was organized for the purpose of maintaining the work of the independent churches, and entering new fields as occasion might demand. In 1898 the A. B. C. F. M., the oldest foreign missionary society in the United States, held its annual meeting with Park church. It was a gathering of international importance. In April, 1902, after a fruitful pastorate of ten years, Dr. Bradley resigned to accept the Presidency of Grinnell College. On November 1, 1902, Rev. Robert W. McLaughlin began his work as pastor; a united church free from debt awaited him ready to move forward in the work of the kingdom. During this period, the membership has steadily increased, having passed the one thousand mark. The benevolence has kept pace with the growth, and in addition to raising about nine thousand dollars for maintaining the work, the church raised about fifteen thousand dollars for work beyond its own borders.

**Second Congregational Church.**—The mother church, the First Congregational, has, from its founding, affectionately and generously nurtured this, its first child, the story of whose birth and development runs thus: In the spring of 1869 the First Church established a Sunday School Mission in the northern part of the city, and in the fall erected a small frame meeting-house for this purpose, on Canal street, just north of East Leonard street, for at that time it was hoped that the mission services would draw a congregation from the west as well as from the east side of the river. The Sunday School work prospered, and though the attendance at the preaching services was small, it was resolved in July, 1870, to organize a church, with the Rev. John Holloway as pastor, and the following members: Magilvray Norton (the first Deacon), Mrs. M. Norton, Miss Anna Norton, Mrs. Fidelia Quimby, Mrs. J. Holloway and Mrs. Barbara Comstock. Deacon Norton, Chas. Bacon, John D. Boyd, S. French and Scott E. Curdy successively superintended the young Sunday School with great devotion and efficiency. It was the misfortune of the society to be often without the stated services of a pastor, but the parental care of the First Church supplied not only most of the financial support, but timely assistance during such vacancies. The Rev. J. Morgan Smith was ever interested in their welfare, and often

conducted their worship at such times; others also of the gifted members, notably Messrs. James Gallup, James B. Wilson and Harvey J. Hollister held lay services, that were very acceptable, and the Rev. C. B. Smith, D. D., a well known retired Baptist minister, resident here, is gratefully mentioned as such a helper. Nor must the statement be omitted that self-help was cultivated when so situated for Deacon Norton, Chas. Bacon, and John McKay, who joined them in 1872, often conducted a public "reading service."

The second pastor was the Rev. Robert Hovenden, who remained about a year, and the third was the Rev. John R. Savage, for the same length of time. Both were blessed with a measure of success. The Rev. E. C. Olney agreed to accept a call extended to him early in 1874, on condition that the church building be moved to its present location. To this a favorable response was given, and the transfer effected that summer. The labors of the new pastor and the wise change of location, made it necessary a year later to enlarge and improve the building, and the present bell was also procured. After two years and a few months, Mr. Olney resigned, but was recalled in 1877, and continued two years longer, as pastor of this and the south Congregational Churches. The interval was filled by the supply labors of the Rev. George Candee for six months, and of the Rev. J. G. Freeborn for one year. The Rev. Henry Utterwick succeeded Mr. Olney, and began his pastorate in March, 1880, continuing until May 1, 1887. The church bears testimony that under his supervision the Society became well organized; the work was systematized and the church gradually improved. He also performed some missionary work, a mission being formed about June 1, 1886, in the town of Plainfield, four miles north, under the name of "Oak View Congregational Mission." Soon after, services were there conducted by Mr. H. A. Shearer, and next by the Rev. M. S. Angell, who had the pleasure of organizing it into a church, March 8, 1888, and remains its pastor. The Rev. E. F. Goff labored successfully as pastor from May, 1887, till September 18 of that year, at the same time caring for the "Smith Memorial Church." He was succeeded by the Rev. H. A. McIntyre, who likewise served the two churches, and continued pastor of the Second until June 30, 1888, when the Rev. J. T. Husted entered upon his labors, July 1, as stated supply, as all before him had been.

Rev. Mr. Husted closed a successful pastorate of eleven years in April, 1899, having received a call to the First Congregational Church of Wyandotte, Mich. During his pastorate the church had become self-supporting, had largely increased its membership, and prepared the way for the building of a new church. On October 8th of the same year the Rev. Henry Marshall preached his first sermon as pastor, and continued to serve the church in that capacity till December 1st, 1900, when, on account of the health of his son Leslie he was obliged to seek a warmer climate. Mr. Marshall greatly endeared himself to the people of the church and community during his short pastorate. During the summer of 1900 the beautiful new church building now occupied by the congregation was erected at a cost of more than \$10,000, with a seating capacity of 500, and was dedicated with impressive ceremonies on December 9th of that year. The church was without a pastor till March 3rd, 1901, when Rev. Ferdinand E. Carter began his pastorate, and continued his labor till June, 1904. The present pastorate, that of Rev. S. T. Morris, began on November 8th, 1904. The officers of the church are as follows:

**Board of Trustees:** H. H. Leffingwell, Chairman, 49 Grove St.; James Schriver, Secretary, 107 Spencer Ave.; Wm. K. Munson, Knapp Ave.; C. M. Norton, Plainfield Road; A. W. Buchanan, 468 N. Front St.; Owen Livingston, 76 Merritt Ave.; Peter Noom, 207 Dale Ave.; G. L. Proctor, 60 Queen St.; Arthur Luther, 480 E. Leonard St. Society Secretary—R. F. Underdown, 422 E. Leonard St. Church and Society Treasurer—A. W. Buchanan.

**Committees of Board:** Finance—Wm. K. Munson, Chairman; H. H. Leffingwell, Owen Livingston, Mrs. Wm. Sprague, Mrs. H. A. Ruhlman. Incidentals—H. H. Leffingwell, Peter Noom, James Schriver. Use of Church Property—Wm. K. Munson, H. H. Leffingwell, S. T. Morris. Music—Arthur Luther, Owen Livingston, A. W. Buchanan. Meeting of Board second Tuesday evening of each month, Pastor's Study.

**Church Officers:** Clerk—Frances Tuck, 179 Dale Ave. Deacons—Richard Watkins, Wm. K. Munson, August Buchanan, Owen Livingston, H. H. Leffingwell, Adrian DeYoung. Deaconesses—Mrs. Mary C. Ruhlman, Mrs. I. F. Lamoreaux, Mrs. James Campbell.

**The Sunday School:** Superintendent—Owen Livingston. As-

sistant Superintendents—A. W. Buchanan, J. Roy Munson, Arthur Luther. James W. DeYoung, Secretary; Clyde Clark, Treasurer; Nellie Croll, Chorister; Hazel Douglas, Organist. Executive Committee—Consisting of Superintendent, heads of departments, Secretary, Treasurer, Chorister, two members Church Committee and Pastor.

**Plymouth Congregational Church.**—The first preliminary meeting, leading up to the organization of Plymouth Church, was held in Travis Hall on South East street, in the afternoon of October 9th, 1892. It was decided then to organize a Sunday School, and also to hold prayer meetings every Thursday evening at 402 South East street. Soon afterward, Luce's Hall, corner of East street and Fifth avenue, was rented for regular meetings, beginning November 23. The Rev. R. M. Higgins was leader in this movement and began at this time to hold regular preaching services both morning and evening. On December 18, 1892, a regular council was called, and formally organized Plymouth Congregational Church with a charter membership of twenty-two. Mr. Higgins was engaged as regular pastor, half of his salary being provided by Park Church, of which Plymouth was a mission. In the meantime, efforts were being made towards a church building; two lots were purchased by the mother church, and in just one year—November 12, 1893—the new building was dedicated. For a few years the growth of membership was good, but during the hard times and business panic which followed, the church was put to a severe test. Faithfulness and singleness of purpose, however, with never a feud or schism, brought their reward, and the church lived through. The father of Plymouth Church, Mr. Higgins, remained as pastor until February 17, 1900. Immediately thereafter, Rev. A. H. Stoneman, then a student in Andover, Mass., was called to the pastorate, and began his services March 11. The membership has steadily increased until the present time (1905)—it is 180. In 1902, among other material improvements, a pipe organ was installed at a cost of \$1,450. In June, 1905, enlargement of the building was undertaken at a cost of about \$2,500.

The organizations connected with the church are: the Sunday School, Aid and Mission Society, the Plymouth Recreation Club, divided into the Military, Baseball and General Athletic departments. Situated in a new and developing part of the city, the

prospect is good for a wholesome and vigorous growth of this entire institution.

**East Congregational Church** was organized February 8, 1894, in East Grand Rapids, developing from services that had been held in the schoolhouse since December, 1893, by the Rev. William H. Underhill, who became the first pastor. The church was incorporated as the East Grand Rapids Congregational Church. A lot was bought and preparations were made for building in East Grand Rapids, while the meetings were held in the schoolhouse and afterward in a hall. But it was soon thought best to move within the limits of the city where most of the membership of the church resided, and in the spring of 1896 the site on School street was secured. The cornerstone of the new building was laid September 16, 1896, and the dedication occurred December 20, 1896.

The church has had four pastors: William H. Underhill, 1894 to 1898; Jacob Dyk, 1898 to 1899; John Humfreys, 1899 to 1904; Wilmot E. Stevens, 1905 to ——. The membership of the church is about 70. The Sunday School is growing in members and interest, and the large growth of the Eastern part of the city and the good location of the church building give promise of great opportunities before this young church.

**South Congregational Church** was organized December 12, 1878. It was received into the Grand Rapids Association April 10, 1879, and the church and society was consolidated November 5, 1884. A church at the present location was dedicated December 12, 1886, and was destroyed by fire November 29, 1897. The rebuilt church was dedicated February 26, 1898, and is located at the corner of Central and Eighth avenues.

The original officers were as follows: Trustees: M. W. Bates, Freeman Lathrop, Jared L. Post, Chas. T. Patterson, A. F. North. Deacons: Joshua Henshaw, M. W. Bates, Freeman Lathrop, E. W. Heth. Deaconesses: Mrs. G. A. Pollard, Mrs. H. Smith. Clerk and Treasurer: Creyton J. Post.

The pastors of the church have been: Rev. E. C. Olney, 1877-1881; Rev. B. F. Sargeant, April, 1881-Aug., 1889; Rev. F. Noble, Sept., 1889-July, 1891; Rev. J. E. Smith, Oct., 1891-Sept., 1894; G. P. Moore, Nov., 1894-Oct., 1896; Rev. F. E. York, Dec., 1896-Feb., 1904; Rev. John Gordon, the present pastor, Feb., 1904.

**Barker Memorial Congregational Church.**—The organization

known as Barker Memorial Congregational Church was first organized as a Sunday School in the Spring of 1894, Mr. Van A. Wallin, a member of Park Congregational Church, being the first Sunday School Superintendent. On June 19, 1896, it was organized as a branch of Park Church with 9 members, and in December of the same year, it was incorporated under the laws of Michigan as an independent organization holding the title of Barker Memorial Congregational Church. The Rev. C. I. Taylor, now of Clarksville, was its first pastor, being succeeded by Rev. I. T. Walker on October 17, 1897. Mr. Walker resigned on July 17, 1901, and was succeeded by Rev. C. A. Riley, now of Lyon, Iowa. Mr. Riley remained as pastor until February 17, 1904, and was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. W. John Hamilton.

The church all through these years has shown a steady growth, and during the past year has doubled its membership. They have just purchased a beautiful site for a new church edifice on First and Pine streets, and building operations will be commenced very shortly.

**Smith Memorial Church.**—In February, 1886, the Park Congregational Church rented Stevens' Hall, 15 and 17 Grandville avenue, and organized a Sabbath School there, under the superintendence of Forrest M. Priestley, assisted by Miss Anna Locher and Millard Palmer. Sunday evening services were also held here by the Rev. Charles B. Shear, who was employed by the ecclesiastical mother of this enterprise, and for a short time cared faithfully for this mission. His labors were followed by those of Mr. Mead, then a theological student at Olivet College. After a few months of acceptable work, he resumed his studies, and the vacancy was filled by James Gallup, to whose zeal, energy and efficiency the church is greatly indebted. After the lapse of several months, the Rev. E. F. Goff was secured, in September, 1886, as pastor, whose services of one year largely promoted the development and prosperity of the mission. The Rev. H. A. McIntyre succeeded him October 10, 1887; the next pastor was Rev. Thos. R. McRoberts, who was succeeded by Rev. F. G. Blanchard, and he by Rev. St. Clair E. Smith, who was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. George Extence, 1905. For some time previous, it was the cherished purpose of the mother church to build a church home for this rapidly growing congregation, and to name it as above, in loving memory of their late pastor, the Rev. J. Morgan Smith, who died Oct. 1, 1883. In this they were

materially assisted by the relatives, friends and admirers of the late pastor, and on September 25, 1887, the cornerstone of the church was laid, the dedication following on the 27th of May, 1888. This beautiful brick structure, with an auditorium that seats 500, and which, with the lot, also occupied by a \$1,500 parsonage, is worth about \$10,000, is a fitting monument, and an ornament to the city. The only debt remaining is one of the parsonage, about \$500. The formal organization of this mission as a church took place in September, 1887, with thirty-nine members, which number has steadily increased. The Sunday School enrolls about 170 scholars at the present time, 1905.

**Westminster Church, Grand Rapids, Mich.**—The history of the Westminster Church really begins with the first Presbyterian work started in the city in 1847, on the west side of Grand River, which divides the town. A Sabbath school was opened by Rev. Joseph Penny, D.D., an aged clergyman living in retirement. He conducted religious services as he was able till such a foothold had been obtained, that in 1855 Rev. Courtney Smith, of Warrensburg, N. Y., was called to become pastor. This first church is not only in existence, but has continued to grow until the present time. It was, however, deemed advisable in 1861 to commence another church on the east side of the river, and time has justified the wisdom of the movement. Rev. Mr. Smith and twenty-five members hired a room and organized Westminster Church. It was received by the Grand River Valley Presbytery, July 17, 1861.

In 1865, Mr. Smith removed to New York, and his nephew, Rev. Reuben S. Goodman, of Laporte, Ind., accepted a call to the church, remaining here seven years. The growth was steady, a small house of worship was erected, and the church became self-supporting, having about one hundred and thirty members when Mr. Goodman resigned in 1871. He was followed by Rev. C. M. Temple, who labored here from 1872 to 1875.

About that time the United States Government purchased the building with adjoining property for a post-office site and Westminster changed to the present location on Lagrave Street. A chapel was erected in 1876, and used for church services till the completion of the auditorium in 1885.

These were discouraging years of great effort for the young church. Rev. F. G. Kendall was followed by Rev. D. E. Bierce, Rev. L. M. Scofield and Rev. Sanford H. Cobb, who took charge

in 1885, about the time the church was completed. He remained nine years, having a fruitful ministry, and is still held in loving remembrance by many of his people.

In 1895 Rev. J. M. Fulton, D.D., became pastor for seven years. During his pastorate an incumbrance of some \$11,000 was removed, and various changes made in the interior of the building.

For the past two years the church has been without a regular pastor, but not without a supply, and it has continued to show the same patience in well doing which has always characterized its efforts. A large addition was built to the chapel last spring by the "Ladies' Christian Workers," giving greatly needed enlargement to the study and parlor, and furnishing better accommodations for the Sabbath School and Bible-classes whose faithful officers and teachers have long labored under disadvantages. One of these, Mr. William Logie, has served in an official capacity for some thirty-five years. A fine new kitchen and lavatory make the social department more complete.

The Rev. Reuben H. Hartley, D.D., of Laporte, Ind., has accepted a call to become pastor, and we have reason to hope for greatly extended usefulness for this church. Every department is well organized and active. Its Christian Endeavor Society and Ladies' and Young People's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies, its Christian Workers with three ladies' circles, and two young ladies' auxiliary guilds, and a boys' club are all parts of the machinery for well doing. The church has its share also in city missions and hospital service, and gives regularly to all the Boards.

Two mission churches have been assisted by Westminster until self supporting, so that four Presbyterian churches were organized in this city within about forty years from the first feeble beginning. It is proper, too, to record here that Presbyterianism in all this Western Michigan owes a large debt of gratitude to Mr. W. O. Hughart, the beloved elder of Westminster. Eternity alone can reveal the helping hand he gave to feeble churches in this region before he passed to his reward.

It is not in a spirit of boasting we mention all this, but of thankfulness, that we have been permitted to do it. The struggling days for existence have long passed and but few remain who bore the burden and heat of those days, but there is labor for the reaper as well as the sower, and both may rejoice together in the final harvest.



**Church Directory.**

**Elders.**—Lee M. Hutchins, G. N. Wagner, Jas. R. Wylie, A. W. Brown, Chas. L. Frost, S. W. McKee, W. Oden Hughart, Dr. C. H. Rose, J. G. Alexander.

**Trustees.**—Wm. Logie, president; Frank A. Harvey, secretary; C. C. Follmer, treasurer; Henry Idema, Wm. Widdicomb, L. B. Wagner, Thos. M. Peek, Thos. C. Ferguson.

**Deacons.**—Horace Shields, Wm. Logie, Jr., Ira D. Birdsall, Herbert M. Pierce.

**Auxiliary Deacons.**—Mrs. Harry Widdicomb, Mrs. J. F. Barker.

**Sunday School.**—I. A. Vanheulen, superintendent; W. J. Heron, first assistant superintendent; Miss Nellie Hayes, second assistant superintendent; John F. Neimeyer, secretary; Wm. Logie, treasurer.

**First Presbyterian Church.**—The Rev. Dr. Joseph Penney, father of Col. Joseph Penney, was a Presbyterian clergyman living here in retirement as early as 1847. He established a mission Sunday School on the West Side. Meetings were held in a building which he caused to be erected for a lecture room at the west end of the Bridge Street bridge, upon the site of the present Weirich Block. This work was, in some sense, the forerunner of the Presbyterian Church, though it had died out before such organization.

The church above named was founded October 26, 1855, with the Rev. Courtney Smith as pastor. Sarell Wood and eleven others were dismissed by letter from Park Congregational Church for this purpose. The officers then chosen were: Elders—Sarell Wood, John Terhune, George W. Perkins, Elihu N. Faxon and Henry Seymour. Trustees—John Terhune, George W. Perkins, E. Morris Ball, Boardman Noble, S. Wood, E. N. Faxon and A. H. Botsford. The other members were Edward P. Camp, Martha Camp, Henry C. Marvin, Sarah Ferguson, Adelaide Waring, Margaret Nevius, Alson Adams, Amelia D. Farnham, Triphena D. Farnham, Mary A. Henman, Sarah M. Smith, Susan W. McIntire, David Beebe, Sarah Beebe, Lydia Beebe, Harriet Hyde, Mary Ann Reid and Kate Terhune. Of these twenty-five constituent members, Mrs. E. P. Camp still resides here. Soon after organizing, a small chapel was built, at a cost of \$1,000, and without debt, on Front Street about opposite the present Belknap Wagon

Shops. During the first pastorate, which terminated in April, 1861, the growth was so rapid that 176 members were reported in 1858, and even in its second year the present grounds were purchased, and the building now occupied by them commenced. In 1857 the congregation were full of sanguine expectations, looking for an early occupancy of the edifice, whose walls were completed and the roof begun, when the financial crisis suddenly arrested this enterprise, as it did multitudes of others throughout the country. In 1861 their pastor, whose memory is still lovingly cherished by the surviving members of that date, because of his sterling worth and his beneficent influence here as a loyal patriot at the outbreak of the war, left them to organize the Westminster Presbyterian Church of this city. In 1862 the Rev. Jasper Ball supplied the church for several months, and was succeeded in November of that year by Rev. Augustus Marsh. The pulpit was then supplied by the Rev. Justin Marsh for several months and was followed by the Rev. E. B. Miner from 1866 to 1868. All these faithful servants contended with the serious disadvantage of an unsuitable house of worship, and a debt of \$8,000 incurred by the project of 1857, which by the accumulation of interest had grown to \$10,000. The suspension of work upon it had left the structure exposed to the elements, and at last the front wall, made of plaster or gypsum stone, succumbed to these destructive forces. But in March, 1868, the Rev. Henry H. Northrop entered upon the pastorate with a determination to change the situation, in which the church was greatly encouraged by the first successful effort, which reduced the indebtedness of \$8,000 to E. H. Turner to \$1,700, who at last gave them the lots. Then the congregation repaired the building, and finished and occupied the basement at an outlay of about \$2,000. The following April this stirring pastor was succeeded by the Rev. Wm. B. Sutherland, but after one year there was a vacancy again, and in October, 1870, Mr. Northrop was induced to return, and labored among them three years more. During his last year he achieved another noteworthy success, in the completion of the house of worship. The auditorium, with a seating capacity of at least 800, and room for 1,000 in all, was at last ready for use, having cost \$4,000. In the liquidation of the debt, and later expenditures, it is proper to acknowledge the receipt of aid from the Synod of Michigan. Mr. Northrop bade them farewell in October, 1873. In January, 1874, the Rev. William A. Fleming took his place, and for four

years rendered effective service. It was chiefly through his foresight and self-denying labors, and those of a few faithful helpers, that Mission Wood Presbyterian Church was started, as elsewhere described. In his fifth year he was physically disqualified for such work as the church needed; hence he resigned in March, 1879, and the Rev. James Barnett became the stated supply, serving two years, beginning in July, 1879. In October, 1881, the Rev. H. P. Welton was secured, and on the 31st of January, 1889, closed the longest pastorate the church ever enjoyed. His abundant labors were performed with marked ability and devotion, and bore noble and rich fruit that abides. Value of property about \$20,000, and without debt. The seats are free, and the annual income is about \$3,000.

In the fall of 1887 the church organized the "Endeavor Presbyterian Mission" on Stocking Street. A flourishing Sabbath School and a Mid-week prayer meeting was sustained here for a number of years.

February 13, 1889, the Rev. L. H. Davis was called as pastor of the church. When Mr. Davis became pastor the church was greatly in need of repairs and remodeling to make it more convenient and comfortable for the growing work and increasing membership. In the year 1891 the church was thoroughly remodeled at the cost of several thousand dollars. From time to time improvements have been made within and without the church so that to-day the property is in splendid condition, admirably fitted for every department of the work. The church is thoroughly organized. The Sabbath School is one of the largest in the city. The missionary societies and young people's societies are known for their interest in and devotion to the work of the denomination. Mr. Davis has the honor of having served the church nearly seventeen years, one of the longest pastorates in the city. These many years of service tell their own story of harmony, progressive methods, untiring work, hearty co-operation and confidence on the part of pastor and of people. The church is recognized as one of the most useful and influential in the Synod of Michigan. In October, 1905, from the 22nd to the 26th, the First Presbyterian Church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a Golden Jubilee. On each day there was an elaborate program and appropriate ceremonies.

**Third Presbyterian Church, West Broadway, between Watson Street and Butterworth Avenue.**—In the summer of 1875 the Rev. Wm. A. Fleming, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, began a mission in the woods, or oak grove, where this church is now located. In the fall of that year Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Boyer, Mr. and Mrs. H. Benjamin, and Mr. and Mrs. J. King met at the residence of M. J. Ulrich to devise measures to secure a suitable place in which to hold their Sunday School during the winter. The committee then appointed recommended the erection of a temporary building. W. O. Hughart, hearing of this action, offered to give the lumber for a church building, provided a lot was secured and held in trust by the First Presbyterian Church. This proposition was accepted, and the trustees selected the present lot, which cost \$600. Quite an undenominational or union interest was manifested by the people of that neighborhood in the success of the enterprise, and the ladies' soliciting committee and socials were so liberally encouraged that the purchase price of the lot was soon raised, also a fund of \$800 for the building of a chapel, which was dedicated early in the spring of 1876. In March the Sunday School was organized with Mr. Ulrich as superintendent, the average attendance for the first year being seventy-five. In addition to this work, Sunday afternoon worship was conducted there, Mr. Fleming preaching once in two weeks, and supplies from the city and about rendered gratuitous service on the alternate Sundays. In this manner church privileges were provided for a goodly congregation and growing neighborhood, and without any decided denominational connection; but it became necessary for the trustees holding the property to fulfill the contract for the lot, when the mission was organized February 18, 1883, as it now exists. The Rev. M. Bocher became its pastor on that day, and the first officers were elected, to-wit: Elders—Charles Van Aernam and Orson Hauser. Trustees—R. B. Wallin, George McInnes, Wm. E. Knox, Henry Mosher, Isaac Quigley and G. A. Brosseau. There were forty-four charter members. Mr. Bocher closed his pastorate May 1, 1885, and the Rev. Wm. H. Hoffman succeeded him June 3 of that year. The audience room is 28 by 60 feet, having a seating capacity of 250, and in the summer of 1888 generous friends enabled the church to add a lecture room of 22 by 16 feet, at a cost of \$300.

The people of this section of the city are called to worship by

the sweet tones of a bell weighing 475 pounds, which was largely the gift of the Sabbath School and a generous friend. The present value of all this property is about \$4,000. The Sunday School enrolls 250 scholars, and is superintended by Geo. H. Stander. The increase of members has been slow, only seventy communicants being reported. This is not equal to the expectations of the founders, but it must be borne in mind that the Baptists have attracted their share of worshipers and supporters by locating a place of worship very near them.

In 1888 a Y. P. S. C. E. was organized. The seats are free; the annual receipts from within the congregation are \$500, and aid is derived from the Board of Missions and friends. The present officers are: Elders—Chas. H. Rose, George McInnes and Geo. H. Stander. The pastorate became vacant by the resignation of Mr. Hoffman, March 3, 1889, but on the first of May the Rev. Thomas G. Smith succeeded him as stated supply, in which capacity he served for a year, at which time, because of the prosperous condition the church had attained under his direction, he was called to the pastorate and installed in said office in May, 1890. In 1891 the numerical strength of the church made a more commodious building a necessity and the church edifice was enlarged to almost double its original seating capacity at an expense of about \$1,800. It was also during his pastorate that the church became self-supporting, declining to receive any further aid from the Board of Home Missions. In 1894 the question of changing the name of the church organization became an issue with the result that its present name was dropped and that of "Third Presbyterian Church of Grand Rapids, Mich.," adopted. In December, 1895, the pastor asked the Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relations, and, the church concurring, the request was granted, the pastor going to another field in Sullivan, Ind. The last two years of J. G. Smith's pastorate were years of retrogression in the history of the church, the causes being the coming in of other denominations into the territory occupied by them, the removal of many of their members to other parts, and this, together with other circumstances, very perceptibly weakened the church. But not discouraged by those events, the church, after a vacancy in the pastorate of five months, extended a call to Rev. Reuben S. Smith of New Berlin, Ill., who was installed as pastor in May, 1896. The years following his instal-

lation were somewhat trying years to the church, as the active membership had dwindled down to about seventy-five, but through the persistent efforts of the pastor and the active members its numbers were gradually reinforced by the addition of others until at present its membership is one hundred and twenty-six. In October of 1904 the pastor notified the Session that, owing to failing health, he was compelled to lay down the work to go to Colorado to recuperate, and the Presbytery at their fall meeting of said year at the pastor's request dissolved the relations, the church very reluctantly concurring. This was followed by a vacancy in the pulpit of eight months, during which time it was supplied by various ministers until May, 1905, when the church extended a call to Mr. Jas. F. Smith, graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill., which call was accepted by Mr. Smith, he beginning his work on the 1st of June, 1905. At this time the only remaining one of the original forty-four charter members is Mrs. Helen Newton. The personnel of the Session at present are: Elders—Engel DeYoung, Robert A. Megaw and Geo. H. Stander, and that of the Board of Trustees—Messrs. J. H. Quigley, J. J. Quigley, D. F. McDonald, Henry DeJonge, J. W. Davis, A. Wands and Dr. E. J. Chamberlin.

**Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Madison Avenue, opposite Oakdale Avenue.**—About April, 1886, a number of Christian people met in the school house, a few lots north of the present church building on Madison Avenue, Mr. J. M. Hurst presiding, and organized a Sunday School with the following officers: J. W. Warren, superintendent; Thomas Crane, assistant superintendent; Miss Mason, secretary; Mr. Cuttler, treasurer. The school grew from eight scholars to an average attendance of fifty-nine at the end of the first year. Preaching services were held in connection with the school.

During the summer of 1888 Mr. C. W. Smith, of Cooperstown, N. Y., a generous Presbyterian, gave a lot 150 feet square, fronting on Madison Avenue, and the erection of the present church buildings was begun, and finished the same year. The Board of Church Erection gave \$500, Underwood and Weston \$400, Rev. S. H. Cobb, D.D., of the Westminster Church, collected \$500, and the neighborhood pledged \$300. As the building cost \$2,200, a deficiency of \$500 remained, which was advanced by Mr. Amos S. Musselman and Mr. W. O. Hughart and finally given by them

to the church. The Sabbath School met for the first time in the new building for their Christmas exercises. July 1, 1889, Rev. Geo. Reynolds began his work, and September 11 of the same year a commission of Presbytery met in the church and organized twenty-three persons into Immanuel Presbyterian Church as a mission of Westminster. W. C. Lyman, J. W. Warren and Amos S. Musselman were elected and ordained elders and Fred Rowan and A. J. Creelman were chosen deacons.

After two years of faithful work, during which he endeared himself to all, Rev. Mr. Reynolds resigned and was succeeded October 1, 1891, by Rev. John Davies, D.D., who continued until 1893. During the summer Mr. Vail of McCormick Seminary supplied the pulpit. October, 1893, Rev. James Thompson was called to the pastorate and labored untiringly for the building up of the church until 1897, being succeeded by Rev. Geo. W. Bryant, during whose pastorate the present well-designed and pretty parsonage was erected, at a cost of \$1,600, the only Presbyterian parsonage in the city. Rev. G. A. Sherman supplied the church, 1899-1900, and was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. W. J. Rainey, December 23, 1900. Since then some needed improvements have been made, and by the generous action of our kind friend who gave the original lot, the indebtedness on church and parsonage, \$1,200, has been paid. Other debts, amounting to several hundred dollars, have been paid, so that the church has a splendid property free of debt.

This church has had a struggle, but is the stronger for it. During these years of constant toil and earnest prayers, Westminster Church gave liberally of her means to sustain the work. The late W. O. Hughart took a very deep interest in the church's welfare, and the name which it bears, "Immanuel," God with us, reveals the secret of his beautiful and fruitful life. Mr. Amos S. Musselman, who was associated with Mr. Hughart in labors of love, has proved a faithful friend, and still delights to assist us. Six of the charter members still remain with us. All loyal, tried and true. This sketch would be incomplete without referring to the societies which have labored untiringly for the benefit of the church. The Junior C. E. Society, under the leadership of Miss Louise Avery, has carpeted the church, adding to its beauty and comfort. The Senior C. E. has done and is doing well. The Ladies' Missionary Society, co-operating with the president, Mrs.

Rainey, is yearly increasing its gifts to Home and Foreign Missions. The Sabbath School, B. H. Young, superintendent for the past four years, is growing in numbers and usefulness.

Immanuel Church is blest with a session of faithful, earnest, Christian men, and a loyal Board of Trustees, who with the united efforts of members and friends and the blessing of God, have made Immanuel a strong factor in the religious life of this part of the city.

The present membership is 110, 34 being added during the present pastorate.

The officers of the church are: Session—R. H. Young, Edward DeVries, Franklin DeKleine, W. C. Hall. Trustees—D. E. Lozier, A. J. Creelman, W. C. Hall, John Cummins, E. G. Freeman, J. E. Winters, Frank Molesta.

Ladies' Aid Circles—Mrs. Lena Hooker, Mrs. J. E. Winters, presidents.

Missionary Society—Mrs. W. J. Rainey, president.

Senior C. E. Society—George M. Curtis, president.

Junior C. E. Society—Superintendent, Miss Blanche Ogilby, president; Miss Mamie Hyde.

**Fountain Street Baptist Church.**—The history of the Fountain Street Baptist Church in Grand Rapids is a record of intelligent and earnest faith and purpose. As early as 1842 the American Baptist Home Mission Society sent Rev. T. Z. R. Jones to Grand Rapids as its missionary, and in 1843 the first Baptist church was organized with seven members, none of whom are now living. Rev. Mr. Jones was the first pastor, and continued as such until 1845, when he was succeeded by Rev. A. Chase, and he was succeeded by Rev. A. C. Jennison in 1848, who remained with the church one year only, owing to ill health. In 1849 Rev. A. J. Bingham became pastor and continued until 1851, when he was succeeded by Rev. F. Prescott, who remained until 1855. In 1856 L. M. Woodruff became the pastor and during that year the church divided into two branches and so continued until 1869. One portion retained the name of "First" and was served during this period of thirteen years by the Rev. Abel Bingham (who had served as missionary among the Indians with headquarters at the "Soo"), who served them as pastor until 1861. In that year Rev. I. S. Fay became the pastor. In 1863 Rev. P. Van Winkle, who served them until 1867, and Rev. I. Butterfield until 1869.



The "Tabernacle" Church, afterwards called the Second Church, retained Rev. L. M. Woodruff as pastor until 1857, when he was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Holt, and he by Rev. Mr. Prescott, in 1859. In 1862 Rev. C. B. Smith, D.D., became pastor; he was succeeded by Rev. N. A. Reed, D.D., in 1867, and he continued until 1869. During this period, 1856 to 1869, each of these two churches had erected houses of worship. The First Church at the corner of Fountain and Bostwick Streets, and the Second on North Division Street, only one block away. The membership of the First Church was 150 and of the Second Church was 100. The houses of worship were both small and not in keeping with the growth and enterprise of the young and growing city.

A feeling that the "cause" we all held so dear could best be conserved by consolidating the two branches into one stronger and more aggressive body became about this time quite strong among the members in each of the churches. Both the pastors, Butterfield and Reed, urged the consolidation and, although to them it meant a personal sacrifice, it was cheerfully made.

April 1, 1869, the two Baptist churches were merged into one organization and the reunited church entered upon a career which, under God, has resulted in great usefulness in our city.

Rev. Samuel Graves, D.D., was the first pastor, entering upon his first pastorate January 1, 1870, and for fifteen years his work was successful in a marked degree. Under his leadership a new and commodious church building was erected, and in December, 1873, the lecture room was open for public service, and three years later the audience room was completed.

Dr. Graves succeeded in impressing his own loving, genial, progressive spirit upon the church, and his entire pastorate was marked by spiritual as well as financial growth. Sunday schools were organized in different parts of the city, awaiting the time when churches should be organized.

Profiting by the experience of the past, the church resolutely sought to strengthen and unify the one parent organization and not to imperil the church property secured by so much sacrifice and labor, by undue haste in church expansion. So soon as the reduction of the debt seemed to warrant, the church entered upon a period of enlargement.

In 1883 we dismissed fifty-five of our members to form the Second Church, on the west side of the river, and in 1885 as

many more were dismissed to form the Wealthy Avenue Church, in the east part of the city, and in 1892 still another company went out to form the Berean Church in the north part of the city. These four off-shoots from the Fountain Street Church are all prosperous, self-supporting and efficient.

It has not been the policy of the mother church to centralize all the available Baptist forces at our headquarters, but the mother church also has encouraged and aided each and all the churches of our faith in the city to maintain their position on the field. The parent church could be depended on for moral or financial help whenever needed.

We have now in our city nine churches of our faith, six English speaking white churches, one colored, one Holland and one Swedish, aggressive, enterprising and all or nearly all self-supporting.

Able and earnest men have been the pastors of the church. Dr. Graves was succeeded in 1885 by Rev. Kerr B. Tupper, D.D., and he in 1890 was succeeded by Dr. J. L. Jackson. Rev. J. Herman Randall, who is now with us, became our pastor in 1896.

**Second Baptist Church.**—In 1883 Deacon James W. Converse, of Boston, requested the Fountain Street Church to appoint a committee to select a site south of Bridge Street, on the West Side, and decide on plans for a chapel. Mr. Converse accepted the committee's report and met all the expense of building and furnishing, about \$7,500. The dedication took place September 30, 1883. Dr. Samuel Graves preached the sermon. Monday, October 1st, in pursuance to a call, a meeting was held in the new building to consider the advisability of organizing a church. Fifty-six signified their desire to become members. All but two were members of the Fountain Street Church. The new church extended a call to Rev. E. H. Brooks to become pastor. The call was accepted. The following members were elected: Deacons—Geo. W. Gray, John Rookus and Alex. Dodds; treasurer, R. W. Merrill; clerk, Charles W. Monroe; trustees, Geo. W. Gay, Wm. Haynes, Robt. W. Merrill, John Rookus, Wilbur A. Studley. Bro. Brooks served the church as pastor with marked ability over five years, until ill health compelled him to rest. In October, 1889, Rev. R. W. Van Kirk, of Fall River, Mass., was settled as pastor. Bro. Van Kirk was with us over four years; during these four years 265 united with the church, 146 by baptism.

In May, 1885, a mission was organized in the northwest portion of the city. Deacon John Boyer was appointed superintendent. Under his care the mission grew. Dr. W. A. Studley, Wm. N. Rowe and others serving as superintendents. The old engine house where the mission had met was burned, and the question of owning a home or disbanding was forced upon the workers in the mission. We decided to build. A building committee was appointed and the work pushed forward. In 1892 the new building was dedicated free of debt. The property is valued at \$10,000. Too much credit cannot be given Mrs. W. A. Studley, Wm. N. Rowe, George W. Gay and others who stood by the work faithfully for years.

In January, 1894, Bro. Van Kirk accepted a call to Ypsilanti. Our members living in the vicinity of the mission felt the time had arrived to organize into an independent church before we called a pastor. By the withdrawal of these members (many of them the most faithful workers in the Second church), and others leaving the city about the same time, our income was reduced three-fifths. We extended a call to Rev. C. E. Conley to become our pastor. He declined the call and presented the name of Rev. C. E. Lee, of Alpena. The church called Mr. Lee.

In October, 1896, we called Rev. F. T. Dye, of Chicago, Ill., who served faithfully until February, 1899, when he accepted a call to Muskegon.

Our present pastor, Rev. Joshua Roberts, came to us from Woodstock, Canada, in February, 1899. Under his wise leadership, the church is going forwards. The past year we renovated our building.

**Wealthy Avenue Baptist Church.**—This church began as a Sunday school mission of the Fountain street church in 1875, sessions being held at first in upstairs rooms at 161 Charles street, under the superintendency of Deacon C. R. Barnes. Outgrowing those quarters, it was soon moved to the northeast corner of Charles street and Wealthy avenue, where a neat little chapel was erected. This mission was organized into a church January 13, 1886, with 20 members, and February 13, 15 more were added by baptism, the ordinance being administered in the Fountain street church, then under the pastorate of Rev. Kerr Boyce Tupper.

The small quarters, accommodating only 200, were soon out-

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grown, and the present location, corner of Wealthy avenue and South East street, was secured at \$1,200, and a building committee appointed. The corner stone of the present house of worship was laid September 17, 1886, Rev. Samuel Graves, D.D., preaching the sermon, and appropriate dedicatory services were held January 16, 1887, just one year and three days after the organization of the church.

To Rev. E. R. Bennett, now of Oakland, Cal., is due in great measure the successful launching of this church. The first board of trustees was composed of A. E. Barr, L. C. Remington, A. W. Fisher, A. W. Donaldson, Frank Maybee, while the deacons were J. A. Boyer, H. W. Fisher, E. S. Marvin, S. E. Curdy.

From a membership of 20 the church has grown during the almost seventeen years of its existence to 268, while the total membership from the beginning has been 641.

The following have been the pastors over the church: Rev. E. R. Bennett, 1885-1888; J. B. Donnelly, D. D., 1889-1890; John Heritage, 1890-1895; O. E. Van Osdell, 1895-1896; W. P. Behan, Ph.D., 1898— —.

The mortgage of \$2,500 is the only encumbrance on the property and plans are under way for its cancellation. The present property is worth between \$10,000 and \$11,000.

**Scribner Street Baptist Church.**—On Sunday, May 17, 1885, the Sixth ward Baptist Sunday school was organized in Wilmot's hall, corner of Scribner and Leonard streets. The Sunday school was organized by the Second Baptist church, whose members also formed the nucleus of the teaching corps. The school continued to grow in numbers and on April 11, 1886, they moved into the old engine house on Scribner street. A Thursday evening prayer meeting was started soon after this, and was continued up to the time of the organization of the church. On December 9, 1888, the engine house was partially destroyed by fire, and shortly afterwards the site was purchased from the city by Mr. W. N. Rowe and donated as a site for the new chapel, which was built in 1891 and dedicated March 27, 1892, as the Sixth ward Baptist chapel.

The interest and members continued to increase until January, 1894, when a regular church was organized and called the Scribner Street Baptist church. The first pastor was Rev. Charles W. Barber, who labored from February 25, 1894, till January 14,

1899, and was succeeded by Rev. George M. Lehigh, who preached in a most acceptable and inspiring manner from August 27, 1899, till February 19, 1902, when he was called to another field.

Rev. Fred Merrifield, the next pastor, came direct from the Theological Seminary. Though a young man, he did a splendid work, especially among the young people. His ministry to the church lasted from April 2, 1902, to August 1, 1904, when he decided to become a missionary to Japan.

The present pastor, Rev. Charles McHarness, came direct from the Seminary on September 11, 1904, his work opening auspiciously.

**Berean Baptist Church**, of Grand Rapids, was organized June 5, 1892, started with fifty members received by letter from the Fountain St. Baptist Church. The first building was erected on the northwest corner of North Coit and Travis Avenue, on land donated by Deacon D. W. Comstock. In 1901 the building was moved to its present site on the southeast corner of North Coit and Sweet Street, a basement and other additions being made. The first pastor was Rev. D. M. Canright, who served the church from May, 1892, to May, 1893, followed by Rev. B. P. Hewitt, from June, 1893, to October, 1895. Rev. Canright again became pastor and served from October, 1895, to October, 1896. Rev. E. P. Smellidge was called and served the church until July, 1898. In December, 1898, Rev. Geo. D. Harger was called and he ministered to the people up to November, 1902. The present pastor, Rev. Robert Gray, settled with this church March 25, 1903.

There has been a steady growth in the membership from the beginning. The present number of members is about 300. Of these thirty are non-resident. A new church building is contemplated.

**Calvary Baptist Church.**—The Calvary Baptist Church of Grand Rapids, Michigan, began its existence as a Mission Sunday school. The Sunday school was organized May 16, 1886, and the meetings were held in Ringuette's Hall, corner of South Division Street and Fifth Avenue. About fifty scholars were enrolled, with five or six teachers. From the very first the work was a success. The Rev. Dr. Tupper of the Fountain Street Baptist Church was an ardent supporter and able adviser of the movement. In 1888 the school had increased to about

one hundred and fifty members. The Hon. R. B. Loomis was one of the first superintendents.

The rapid growth and interest manifested demanded a permanent organization, and in November, 1889, a permanent church organization was effected. The church was publicly recognized as a regular Baptist Church November 8, 1889. W. W. Smith, C. E. Balcom and John Hensen were the first trustees.

The Rev. J. Snashall preached his first sermon to the church June 21, 1890. His coming marked a new epoch in the history of the church. A lot was secured and building committee appointed with Brother Snashall as chairman. Ground was broken July 4, 1890. The corner stone was laid with proper services, on the eve of July 28, 1890. On October 7, a "Shelter Banquet" was given in the new building, and on November 9 the Sunday school was moved to the new house of worship, and from that time on the church has worshiped in its own church home.

The Rev. Snashall was fatally injured in an accident. He was found in the harness and doing his duty. His son, Carlton H. Snashall, filled the pulpit till October 3, 1897. November 7 of the same year Rev. M. P. Bowie was called and resigned, October 30, 1898. Rev. Geo. P. Mitchell was called as his successor January 22, 1899, and resigned May 5, on account of ill health. Rev. H. H. Ford, our present pastor, was called September 15, 1901.

The history of the church has been marked for its activity, and has been a great factor for good in that part of the city. One of the notable events in the history of the church, during the stay of the Rev. Ford with us, was the raising of a \$3,200 mortgage, which had been a burden on the church since its existence. One Sunday in May, 1903, over \$2,600 was subscribed, and the total amount raised by November 30, 1903. The mortgage was paid December 29th, 1903, and a jubilee, celebrating the event, held January 10, 1904.

Another event of great moment to the church was the resignation, on April 19, 1905, of twenty-five of its members, to join in the organization of the Burton Avenue Baptist Church. This was a loss to the church but they were glad to give so many faithful workers to the good cause.

The pastor and members of the church are working faithfully

and earnestly for the cause of Christ. Especial attention is being given to the Sunday school. Many conversions have taken place in this department. There is an active B. Y. P. U., and one of the largest Junior Unions in the State. Mrs. H. H. Ford is leader of the Juniors and has given much thought and time to the work. Prayer-meeting is held regularly every Wednesday evening, with good attendance. A good number have been baptized in the past year, or two, and every department of church work is in a flourishing condition.

**Holland Baptist Church.**—In the year 1899, the first five members were baptized by the Reverends P. J. De Neni, of Parkersburg, Iowa, and C. Shoemaker, of Muscatine, Ia. In 1891 some more Holland Baptists came over from the old country. However small their number, they held meetings every Sunday in their homes, and later on, under the leadership of one of their number, they held their meetings every Sunday afternoon in the parlors of the Fountain Street Baptist Church. In May, 1894, the small band of 33 members became organized as the Holland Baptist Church, and Mr. D. Laansma became their chosen pastor, and Mr. John Sysmerda and the late Mr. Fred Moss, their first deacons.

In October, 1894, there was a council held in this city with representatives of the different Baptist churches, and at this council the Holland Baptist Church was incorporated under the State law, and recognized as a regular Baptist church. Their chosen pastor, Mr. D. Laansma, was also examined by this same council, under the chairmanship of the late Dr. Mulhem, and Secretary Rev. C. W. Barber, and in the evening of the 23d of October, 1894, ordained to the gospel ministry.

In 1895 their first chapel was built on McReynold street, near Ninth street, and in 1896 it became necessary to enlarge the building.

The cause has since been growing steadily, and in 1904 they were free of debt. In June, 1904, the church bought a new lot on Quarry street near West Leonard street with the purpose of erecting a better place of worship in that better location. They are still raising funds for that purpose and expect to build as soon as possible. Their pastor, the Rev. D. Laansma, is full of hope for the future.

The Holland Baptist Church is the only church of that faith

among the Hollanders of the Western states. They have branches in Jamestown, Mich., Grand Haven, Mich., and Roseland, Chicago, Ill., where the pastors of the local church go from time to time to preach and work. The membership is steadily increasing and the Sunday school is large. The Holland Baptist Church is very orthodox in their faith and belief and cling to the doctrine of the cross and to all the doctrines of the Bible.

**Burton Avenue Baptist Church.**—The rapid growth of South Grand Rapids is phenomenal. To meet the needs of a growing population has given rise to the organization of an additional religious body on Burton Heights. The Burton Avenue Baptist Church adopted articles of incorporation April 27, 1905.

This interest is the outgrowth of the Burton Avenue Baptist Mission Sunday School and Ladies' Aid Society, the former of which for several years occupied the field, but was compelled to suspend for want of suitable place of meeting.

The Trustees of the new church are: H. M. Johnson, L. A. Franklin, D. Haming, Charles Wolf and John Rookus; Secretary, Pierce Fouts; Treasurer, H. M. Johnson; Deacons, Charles Wolf, John Rookus, H. E. Whitney.

The church has nearly 40 members, but no pastor, and maintains preaching services on Sunday afternoons and a weekly meeting at the home of L. A. Franklin.

It is felt, however, that the work of the church cannot be carried on successfully without a building. Two lots have been purchased on Burton Avenue, on a corner, one block east of South Division street. The property is held in trust by the Grand Rapids Baptist Missionary Society, Alexander Dodds, President; R. B. Loomis, Treasurer. This plan brings the new interest in close relation with the Baptist churches of the city, whose co-operation is desired in the furtherance of the work.

These lots cost \$1,250, and have been paid for, and about one thousand dollars has been pledged for the building. A plan for the edifice has been agreed upon, which will be substantially built, largely of brick, size 67x95 feet, and will cost, when completed, without furnishing or heating apparatus, about \$12,000.

To meet present needs, work will be commenced on the lecture room at an early date, which will require about \$4,000. Excavating for this portion was commenced on May 30, 1905.



It is proposed to erect a building that will be an ornament and a credit to Burton Heights.

**Messiah Baptist Church** was organized in 1889, by the Rev. Jacob Holt. His successors in the pulpit of this church have been as follows, to-wit: Rev. J. D. Johnson, Rev. J. Rookus, Rev. M. Ridley, Rev. T. Morris, Rev. R. Gillard, Rev. I. W. Smith, Rev. G. D. Smith, and Rev. T. B. Woodard, the present pastor, under whose earnest work the church is now in a thriving condition. This is the second Messiah Baptist Church which has been organized in Grand Rapids, the former one having gone out of existence some years ago.

**All Souls Church.**—In 1858, Rev. H. L. Hayward came to this city and gathered about him a small band of Universalists, to whom he preached one year in Luce's Hall. In 1862, Rev. A. W. Mason began his pastorate. After an interim, the society built a church edifice (1868) on Pearl street, with Rev. L. J. Fletcher as minister. An enlargement of the building became necessary, owing to his popularity. Rev. W. C. Brooks and Richmond Fiske, D.D., followed, until 1875, when Rev. Charles Fluhrer, D.D., began his remarkable pastorate of 19 years. During this time the church membership included about 125 families, the Sunday school had 273 pupils, and a sum of \$3,000 was raised annually. The building seated 700 people, and was worth \$20,000.

This popular period was a time of zeal and activity, the minister being one of the best-loved men in the city, and especially prominent as prelate of De Molai Commandery, Knights Templar.

The officers of the church were: E. A. Treadway, President; William H. Anderson, Treasurer; Jas. A. Hunt, Clerk; Henry Naysmith, William Alden Smith, Henry Spring, Christian Bertsch, S. F. Aspinwall, and J. K. V. Agnew, Trustees.

In 1894, Dr. Fluhrer was succeeded by Rev. Thomas Illman, but not until Dr. Fluhrer had inspired the society to build a handsome new edifice of red sandstone, on the corner of Sheldon and Oakes streets. This property values at \$50,000 and is regarded by many impartial critics as the most beautiful and artistic ecclesiastical structure in the city. Its stained glass windows are of especial elegance, opaline tints predominating. The building is well equipped, the supper-rooms being furnished attractively for entertainments, connected with an excellent kitch-

en. The Sunday school room has a pretty stage with footlights, some scenery, and overhead lighting, thus making scenic and illustrated work in connection with Bible lessons possible, as well as affording an excellent place for young people's dramatic entertainments.

In 1897 the tenets of faith were slightly altered, making the belief adhered to by the church even more "liberal" than formerly, a general optimistic faith in the fatherhood of God, and brotherhood of man being the gist of its ethical teachings; and an effort to emulate in daily living the example of the noble Jesus, the practical struggle of its members.

Mr. Illman was succeeded, 1900, by Rev. Leslie W. Sprague, a Unitarian minister, who officiated for three years, and was known throughout the city as an unusually brilliant speaker.

During Mr. Illman's pastorate the hospitality of All Souls was extended to a number of prominent Unitarians, who were not quite strong enough numerically to maintain a separate organization, but formed a valuable portion of All Souls Liberal Church as it exists to-day. This amalgamation, which was eccentuated under Mr. Sprague, marks a step toward progress, and the true federation of the world, of which Tennyson sang, and for which the great Parliament of Religions stands. Universalists and Unitarians have no "creed," but their simple moral and ethical codes are almost synonymous. The national bodies are upon terms of closest intimacy. There are no two Christian churches in the world so nearly identical, and this union in Grand Rapids is one of several "experimental stations," and is being watched by liberals throughout the country.

The church was without a pastor for over a year and the pulpit was ably supplied by Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane, of Kalamazoo. During this time activity was evinced by a subscription of \$12,000 to completely raise the debt upon the property, the largest amount, \$5,000, being given by Ransome C. Luce.

Rev. George Eliot Cooley, the present incumbent, was then chosen, and began preaching September 1, 1902. He has been especially felicitous in harmonizing the different religious elements, being an ultra-liberal. Besides the conventional lines of church work, he has established a Dramatic and Social Club for young people, and a popular Sunday Night Lyceum Course, which, by offering most attractive educational illustrated lectures

by himself and others, has increased the evening attendance from 20 or 30, to 500. Occasionally numbers have been turned away.

Since the time of Mr. Sprague, All Souls has been the center of the University Extension Course, sent by Chicago University, and the present pastor has given his services gratis, with the most arduous labor, for three seasons.

Mr. Cooley is assistant prelate of De Molai Commandery, an Odd Fellow and an Elk, President of the Kent County Humane Society; and is constantly required as toastmaster at banquets and social functions.

For some years, All Souls has been an educational center. Within its doors and by its minister, Dr. Fluhrer, the Humane Society was founded. Manual training was there first agitated.

During the past two years the church property has been improved, the entire interior being aesthetically re-decorated. Through the efforts of Mrs. Cooley, who gave several illustrated lectures and raised large sums of money, a stereopticon outfit was purchased, which has many times multiplied the church's efficiency as an educator.

For several years an adult conversation class, led by Mr. Wesley W. Hyde, has deliberated upon the morning sermon.

Under the efficient business management of Mr. George P. Hummer, the church, since 1904, has been upon a good paying foundation.

The church to-day is unusually vigorous, morally and financially.

The present Board of Trustees consists of A. S. Hicks, President; James A. Hunt, Secretary; A. W. Hine, Treasurer; Hon. Willis B. Perkins, John D. Barlow, E. A. Clement, Mrs. F. A. Simonds, P. McCallum, Geo. M. Ames, and Hon. Geo. P. Hummer.

The Sunday School is led by Dwight Goss, as superintendent, with an able corps of teachers.

**Unitarian Church.**—In the spring of 1883 there came to this city from St. Louis, Mo., Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Udell, who in their former place of residence had been most zealous and active members of one of the leading Unitarian Churches in the land. They found a few of congenial views here, notably Mrs. L. D. Putnam, who longed for the enjoyment of religious services in

harmony with their liberal views. An inquiry resulted in hiring the Ladies' Literary Club Rooms on Pearl Street, where their first meeting was held in October of that year, the Rev. Mr. Forbush, of Detroit, having come to preach for them. On the Sunday following the Rev. Mr. Conner, of Saginaw, conducted the service, and the Rev. J. T. Sunderland of Ann Arbor, supplied the third Sunday. The audiences were so encouraging as to suggest an effort to secure a stated supply; accordingly the Rev. Henry Powers, of Manchester, N. H., was engaged for one month for the sum of \$100. The leading supporters of the enterprise at this time, in addition to the aforementioned, were Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Blodgett, Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Clay, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Gunn, Mrs. D. M. Benjamin, Mr. George C. Kimball and L. D. Putnam, and later also Mr. and Mrs. James Blair. The new minister advised that Powers' Opera House be rented and a choir and full orchestra engaged as a special attraction to the services. The consent of the infant society was granted, and, with music costing \$1,400 per annum, they occupied the Opera House for two years. Their pastor prevailed on D. M. Benjamin, D. P. Clay, A. B. Watson, George C. Kimball, W. S. Gunn, D. A. Blodgett, William T. Powers, G. N. Brigham and C. S. Udell, in the spring of 1884, to purchase a site on Fulton street, near the corner of Lagrave, for a church edifice. These gentlemen of ample means unofficially undertook to push this matter. Plans and specifications were drawn, funds were solicited, and a considerable sum was spent in laying the foundation walls, but the project soon fell through. The society thereupon rented the W. C. T. U. rooms on Pearl street, near the river, and kept up the Sunday School, Mr. C. S. Udell acting as superintendent. For a season they had no regular services, but in November, 1885, engaged the Rev. John E. Roberts for one year and held their meetings in the Hebrew Synagogue. The audiences that had flocked to the Opera House did not return; the congregation remained small in numbers. In August, 1886, Mr. Roberts accepted a call to Kansas City, after which the congregation met in the Ladies' Literary Club Rooms, on Sheldon street, where the Rev. Mr. Coop supplied them for three Sundays; but they were reduced to feebleness and held only a morning lay reading service, and no Sunday School, with an occasional missionary supply from the American Unitarian Association.

An occasional supply preached for the society until 1890,

when Rev. Miss Mila Tupper became pastor and served for three years. In 1893, Rev. H. Digby Johnston was called and remained a year, preaching in the Ladies' Literary Club. After his pastorate, which ended in 1894, the society was supplied for a few Sundays by Rev. Mr. Gould, Secretary of the Western Unitarian Conference. Being without a church home and regular pastor, interest failing, the society soon ceased to hold services. During the pastorate of Rev. Leslie W. Sprague, who was fellow-shipped with both the Unitarian and Universalist denominations, All Souls Church broadened its condition for membership, and upon invitation many of the members of the Unitarian Church found their church home in All Souls' Liberal Church, which is to-day the center for Unitarians and Universalists alike, the present pastor, the Rev. Geo. Eliot Cooley, being a minister of both denominations.

**First Church of Christ, Scientist**, of Grand Rapids, Mich., had its origin in the cases of physical healing performed in this city in the year 1885 by students of Rev. Mary Baker G. Eddy—the discoverer and founder of Christian Science.

As a result of this healing a class of students, in December of that year, received instruction in the theology of Christian Science, the method and operation of which is fully set forth in the text book of Christian Science, *Science and Health*, with key to the Scriptures, of which work Mrs. Eddy is the author.

The instructors of these students had demonstrated their ability and qualifications for teaching the Science of Christian Metaphysics through their healing of the sick. Subsequent classes were taught, and the outgrowth of this instruction was the establishment of a Society, the object of which was to re-emphasize the doctrines taught by Jesus and to reinstate in human consciousness the understanding of his theology which rendered inseparable the preaching of the gospel and the healing of the sick; and which enabled that great Mediator and Way-shower to do his mighty works, which he promised should also accompany those who accepted his teachings and followed in his footsteps.

This new Society which was to prove its faith by its works was formed and began its religious services in Good Templars' Hall on South Division street, in the year 1889.

The Church was legally incorporated October 20, 1893, under the name of First Church of Christ, Scientist, of Grand Rapids,

Mich., with eight charter members, and held its services for a short time in Lockerby Hall, then returning to Good Templars' Hall in March, 1895.

From the time of the organization of the Society to 1895 the public services were conducted in a manner similar to that of other denominations with the preaching by a pastor.

In April, 1895, in accordance with the by-laws of the Mother Church in Boston, of which this church is a branch, a change was made whereby the church services were thereafter conducted by two readers—a man and a woman—one reading from the Bible, and the other from Science and Health.

These readings forming the sermon are prepared by a committee appointed by the Mother Church, and are used in all churches of the denomination. By this method the Mother Church and all branch churches in every quarter of the globe have the same sermon, of which each member is expected to make a careful study. This secures weekly a thorough study of the Bible by all the members.

In October, 1895, a Sunday School was opened for the children, with six members. This school has steadily increased in numbers.

In 1897, the church removed to the Ladies' Literary Club House on Sheldon street, and there continued its services until 1900, when the St. Cecelia Auditorium on Ransom street was secured as a place of worship, where the congregation remained until the completion of the new church edifice on the corner of Washington and Lafayette streets.

In January, 1901, a building site was purchased at a cost of \$8,000, the entire amount being paid in that year. July 20, 1902, it was decided to build. Ground was broken on October 20, 1902, the ninth anniversary of the incorporation of the church.

The corner stone was laid June 10, 1903. The edifice was completed at a cost, including furnishings, of about \$62,000, and formally opened for services on February 12, 1905.

The present membership (1905) is one hundred and ninety-four.

In connection with every Christian Science Church, a Public Reading Room is maintained, the object of which is to provide a place where all who desire to read the literature of Christian Science are made welcome. Bibles and all Christian Science

literature are on sale. The Reading Room was first opened in the Gilbert Block, which was its home from 1891 until 1895.

In February, 1900, new reading rooms were opened in the Houseman block on Pearl street. In December, 1901, the location was changed to 178 Fulton street, where it remained until removed in February, 1905, to the new church edifice.

The church is Congregational in its form of government and annually elects two boards to carry on the work of the church, one consisting of five men designated as trustees, and one of five women known as directors.

In February, 1900, new rooms were opened in the Houseman Block on Pearl street. In December, 1901, the location was changed to 178 Fulton street, where it remained until removed in February, 1905, to the new church edifice. The first year's sales of literature amounted to \$150, the sales in 1905 amounted to over \$1,500.

The church is Congregational in its form of government, and annually elects two boards to carry on the work of the church, one consisting of five men designated as trustees, and one of five women known as directors.

**First United Brethren Church.**—The earliest action looking toward the establishment of a United Brethren Church in Grand Rapids was in the fall of 1889, when I. J. Bear and family and G. H. Kirtland and family removed to this city. They were then members of the Salem society of this denomination. Correspondence was opened with the United Brethren Board of Missions at Dayton, Ohio, with whom the proposed enterprise met with prompt and cordial expressions of favor. An organization was formally effected January 19, 1890, the General Board of Missions not only recognizing the infant society with a nominal indorsement, but also aiding with practical financial support. The charter members were I. J. Bear and wife, Charles Bear, Emma Bear, George H. Kirtland and wife, Ora Kirtland, George W. Dillenbeck and wife, Elizabeth Smith, Maria Averil, Maud Averil, Mollie Wykes, Emory C. Poole and wife, George Lohman and wife, Sarah Bemington, Cora Parker, a total of 19 members. The original Board of Trustees consisted of G. H. Kirtland, I. J. Bear, George Wykes, George Lohman and S. S. Boss. The Rev. W. N. Breidenstein, Presiding Elder, was a conspicuous and invaluable factor in bringing the incipient efforts at church formation to a successful issue. From the beginning of the

movement the First United Brethren Church has enjoyed an unusual degree of prosperity and a substantial growth. The church membership now numbers (1905) 262 and the Sunday School which began with 100 members now has an enrollment of 430. The total amount collected for all church purposes last year was \$2,439.63. The congregation contemplates the erection of a new church edifice at an early date and already has a fund started for that purpose. The building committee is composed of the present Board of Trustees, G. W. Dillenbeck, G. H. Kirtland, Walter H. Brooks, Roger Wykes and Aaron Blok, and the following additional members, Lewis T. Peck, A. P. Srivver, Dr. H. V. Appley, Elisha Loew, George Wykes and the pastor the Rev. C. E. Pilgrim. The proposed new church is to cost from ten to fifteen thousand dollars and will occupy the present site at the N. E. corner of Quigley avenue and Buchanan street. This church has a flourishing Young People's Christian Union and a Junior Branch of the same. Also a large and active Ladies' Aid society and a chapter of the Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip. Following is a chronological record of the pastorates of the church:

The Rev. Howard S. Shaeffer, 1889-1891; The Rev. W. D. Stratton, 1891-1893; The Rev. J. L. Goshert, 1893-1895; The Rev. W. D. Stratton, 1895-1896; The Rev. C. W. Corman, 1896-1900; The Rev. R. H. Turner, 1900-1902; The Rev. C. E. Pilgrim, 1902.

Sabbath—Brotherhood of Andrew and Philip, 9:30 a. m.; Public Worship and Preaching, 10:30 a. m. and 7 p. m.; Bible School, 12 m.; Junior Y. P. C. U., 4 p. m.; Intermediate Y. P. C. U., 5:30 p. m.

Wednesday—Mid-week Meeting, 7:30 p. m.; Teachers' Meeting, 8:30 p. m.

Thursday—Ladies' Aid Society, 2 p. m.

Friday—Senior Y. P. C. U., 7:30 p. m.; Pastor's Bible Study Class, 8:30 p. m.

The Official Board meets the first Monday evening in each month.

**Liberal (Unitarian) Holland Church.**—Beginning in 1847, and for many years afterward, the Holland immigration to this part of our land and to our city was almost without exception from the Christian Reformed Church in the Netherlands. Later on there was a gradual accession of those who came from the State or Established Church, most of whom were anti-Calvinistic and "liberal." Yet, for want of any con-



genial organization and of a sufficient number of rationalistic people, nearly all residing here identified themselves with the orthodox Reformed churches of the city. In 1875 a combination of the liberal element was agitated, for the time being, but in vain. This movement, however, bore fruit in the formation of a Social Circle, that held weekly religious meetings in the Universalist Church. The next step of significance was taken April 12, 1885, when seven earnest advocates of their views invited all persons of kindred convictions to meet with them in the same church on the 19th of April. Thus twenty joined them, and it was decided to found a church. A Board of Directors was at once elected, and the Rev. Dr. Kuenen, of Leiden, Holland, was by correspondence, requested to select a minister for them. Meanwhile lay preaching by some of the members kept up the regular services, and the attendance increased throughout the summer, the audiences being from 200 to 300 during August. Solicitations for the support of a pastor was rewarded, with the result at once communicated to Prof. Kuenen, that they could promise a salary of at least \$1,000. The Sunday School, organized in the spring, grew to an attendance of fifty. On the 1st of September they were cheered by Dr. Kuenen's cablegram informing them that the Rev. F. W. N. Hugenholtz, of Santpoort, a pastor and editor of a religious weekly, had accepted their call and would soon embark for America. He was introduced to his congregation by the Rev. Charles Fluhrer, December 6, and preached his first sermon in the church where all their meetings had been held. During the first week of January, 1886, a constitution and creed were adopted, which are of a pronounced Unitarian type. Their first year was eventful and prosperous, the membership increased to 253, and their commodious and pleasant edifice was built at a cost of \$7,500, and dedicated Dec. 22, 1886. Aid was received from friends in the old country, but notably from the General Unitarian Conference held in the summer of that year at Saratoga, N. Y., to which their pastor personally appealed, with such success that the sum of \$1,000 was immediately collected and placed in his hands. In 1887 Mr. Hugenholtz was formally acknowledged as a Unitarian minister, and his church enrolled as "The First Unitarian Holland Church in the United States." Not long after occupying their own house, a Hamilton Vocation organ completed the furnishing of the church. January 13, 1887, their first society, entitled "Kenniss and Kunst" (Science

and Art), was formed, whose aim is the literary and scientific education and general culture of its members, now numbering 107, the gratuitous instruction of an evening school during the winter, and other laudable work. In 1888 the society of Willing Workers began its useful career, having the following of four departments: social, educational, missionary and charitable. Some of its first work was the opening of a sewing school, a summer school for Holland instructions, an English school for recent immigrants, and a gymnasium for boys. The 500 seats are free, but it is made obligatory upon all members to contribute for the support of the congregation, unless excused. The first official Board was composed of P. VanWanrooy, President; P. H. Eleveld, Secretary; H. M. Buhrmann, Treasurer; Wm. Brummeler, S. Van der Meulen, J. Gruber, T. Venema.

In February of 1900, the Rev. Mr. Hugenholtz died. During the same year, the Society secured for its pastor, Rev. Van Sluyters, who began his work here in September, 1900. Rev. Van Sluyters is a graduate of the Meadville Theological School, of Meadville, Pa. He also completed a post graduate course at Harvard University. In 1903 the parlors of the church building were enlarged and a stage constructed for the convenience of the Young People's Club, a new organization with a membership of about sixty. Meetings are held bi-weekly with miscellaneous programmes and lectures by different speakers.

The present (1905) official board of the church is composed of Wm. Brummeler, Pres.; S. J. Vandermenten, Sec.; J. C. Vander-Haagen, Treas.; H. Jongejan, H. Elhart, Antony Lammers and H. P. Hugenholtz.

The church rejoices in the possession of a good choir under the leadership of H. P. Hugenholtz, son of the former pastor, and a number of devoted women who are organized in the Women's Aid Society.

**Hebrew Congregation (Temple Emanuel)**—Southeast corner of Fountain and Ransom streets.—This organization dates from October 2, 1871, when a meeting was held for this purpose at the residence of Benjamin Geis, at No. 1 Bronson street (now Crescent avenue). The seventeen gentlemen who founded the church were the officers first chosen, to-wit: President, Julius Houseman; Vice-President, Benjamin Geis; Treasurer, Jacob Barth; Secretary, Jacob I. Levi; Trustees, Moses May, Nathan Rodman and Henry S. Pressburg; and besides these,

Jacob Wolf, A. Leavitt, B. Heart, J. Kuppenheimer, D. M. Amberg, Henry Weil, Isaac C. Levi, A. Rodman, S. A. Hart, and H. Kuppenheimer. Their first place of worship was Pierce's Concert Hall on Canal street, which was formally dedicated July 19, 1872, by the Rev. E. Epstein of Milwaukee, and which they occupied until September 1, 1875, then removing to Godfrey's Block, second floor, on Ionia street, one door south of Monroe street. In this capacious and neatly furnished hall they grew prosperously and remained until August 28, 1882, when they entered their beautiful synagogue, whose dedication, according to the ritual, and with other interesting services, made September 15, 1882, a most memorable day in their history. Hebrew is taught thus educating the entire congregation for its worship, as conducted in Hebrew, German and English. The members are obliged to pay a fixed amount annually, which entitles them to a family seat. The following Rabbis have been their pastors: Revs. W. Weinstein, from October 13, 1872, to October 1, 1874; E. Gerechter, from November 1, 1874, to August 1, 1880; N. I. Benson, from August 1, 1880, to August 1, 1881; M. Moses, from August 1, 1881, to August 1, 1882; B. Cohn, from November 1, 1882, to August 1, 1885; N. Rosenau, from March 1, 1886; Rev. Felix W. Jesselson, Rev. Gustave Hausmann, and Rev. Moose Bergman. The latter followed a call to New Orleans, La. Rabbi Emanuel Kahan, from Joplin, Kansas, was lately elected and will enter his charge September 1 next.

The present officers are: President, Joseph Houseman; Vice-President, Morris Heyman; Secretary, Gustave A. Wolf.

The officers of the Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Association are: Mrs. Joseph Houseman, President; Mrs. A. M. Amberg, Secretary; Mrs. Morris Friedman, Treasurer.

The services in the Temple are conducted in the Hebrew and English. Preaching is in the English only. The congregation is financially in good condition, having no indebtedness of any kind.

Between Orthodox and Reformed Judaism, this congregation have made choice of the latter, which aims to modernize the creed, ritual and customs of their worship, and claims to be the progressive wing of the Jewish Church of our day.

Some fifteen gentlemen and their families, residing mostly on the west side, however, remain attached to the Orthodox party, and hence have no ecclesiastical fellowship with Temple Eman-

uel, but secure the services of Orthodox Rabbis to conduct the solemnities of their annual holy days, which fall in the months of September and October.

**Swedenborgian** ("The New Church," corner Lyon and North Division Streets).—In 1847 the Hon. Lucius Lyon, a man of rare ability and of much prominence in the early history of Michigan, awakened such an interest here in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg and the doctrines of the New Church, as to lead to the formation of a New Church association, at a meeting in the Court House, January 18, 1849. The articles adopted were signed by about seventy-five persons, and eight days later Chas. Shepard was chosen President, Welcome Yale, Vice-President, and A. C. Westlake, Secretary and Treasurer. At a meeting April 4, 1849, George Coggeshall, W. L. Coffinberry and Robert Hilton were appointed a soliciting committee; and Robert Hilton, Robert I. Shoemaker and David Burnett, a building committee. June 11, 1849, the first Trustees were elected, as follows: Chas. Shepard, Robert Hilton, Robert I. Shoemaker, George Coggeshall, Harry Dean. August 27, 1849, a constitution was adopted, and in 1850 the Hon. Lucius Lyon, then of Detroit, gave them the present church site, 169 by 50 feet. Then 106 persons subscribed \$1,616.90. Building was commenced Oct. 7, 1850, and the church completed and opened for service April 4, 1852.

Henry Weller, an Englishman of brief residence here, an able and interesting speaker, who had been employed as minister since April 30, 1850, was the means of building up the church until his last year of service, when he was the means of nearly breaking up the society, through an assertion of claims as a teacher, which alarmed and dispersed the congregation. A few remained and suspended Mr. Weller, and reported his conduct to the next Annual Convocation of New Church Societies, by which he was unanimously deposed, Feb. 22, 1853. The effect was such as to suspend activity until 1858-59, during which the late James Miller, a layman in the church, conducted services, and in 1861-62 the Rev. George N. Smith was pastor, but the society was too weak to support a minister, and after this enjoyed only occasional services, a legal existence being maintained to hold the property.

The present members own a property valued at \$15,000 or more. They have expended about \$1,200 in refitting the build-



ing for the resumption of worship and active church life, which was begun Feb. 17, 1889, the Rev. Geo. H. Dole having then entered upon his pastorate of the society. The sittings number 125, are free, and there is room for seventy-five additional seats.

This house of worship, so little occupied by the owners, was leased for many years to different churches. The Second Congregational Church, under the Rev. James Ballard, its founder and pastor, made it their home from 1852 to 1856, when it disbanded. Here the Westminster Presbyterian Church was organized in 1861, and housed until 1865. Next the Christian Reformed was there formed Nov. 30, 1870, and sheltered till early in 1872. February 26, 1872, a Free Will Baptist Church was here organized, but fared like the first mentioned, hence we relate in brief its short history. Its articles of association were signed by Asa Horton, Wm. H. Jones, John Coy, James Markham, and C. Dexter Cilley. They called a minister from the East, who was at first disposed to accept, but soon disappointed the congregation consisting of twenty-five or thirty members, and an audience of 150 to 200. A chosen chorus, of which Mrs. Herman A. Toren, then Miss Julia Kridler, was a member, and also a member of the church, served very acceptably. Neighboring clergymen of their persuasion supplied the pulpit for about a year, but the enterprise languished, and the church finally disbanded, several of the members joining the Alpine church of same views. Early in 1875, and until Sept. 18, 1887, we find the Disciples there, after which the house was vacant until used by the society owning it. For about twenty-three years it was, therefore, a source of income to an inactive society, and witnessed the birth of five churches and the death of two of them within its walls.

**The Children of Zion Church.**—Scribner street, between Ninth and Tenth streets.—A brief sketch of the body of which this society is the center and most flourishing congregation, seems necessary here. Among those who, early in this century, in considerable numbers, left other denominations on account of their views of the second coming of Christ, were the founders of this sect, which at first bore no name, and by some was called “Trine-Immersionists,” by others “Adventists.” Until 1870 they were located in different parts of the New England States, and chiefly in Boston. In 1874 a church was organized at Listowel, Ontario, Canada, by Elder J. B. Brown, of Laconia, N. H., and in March,

1878, a Conference was held at Preston, Ontario, at which they adopted the name of "The Children of Zion." Shortly afterward a monthly paper called *The Day-Star of Zion* was published, which was enlarged in 1880, and issued under its present name, *The Dawn of the Morning*, which has ever since been published here, having a circulation of some 3,500, and was until recently edited by Bishop Paterson.

In May, 1881, the Conference assembled in this city, and elected Elder D. D. Paterson, then pastor here, Bishop of the entire headquarters.

The leading peculiarities of their creed are: Belief in the one God, opposed to the doctrine of a trinity: that Jesus Christ is His only begotten Son, who had no existence as an entity prior to that begetting; that the one Spirit is an immortal influence or power emanating from the Deity and connecting man with his God, which Spirit is the witness of God that we are His children, which operates in the church in gifts and signs following them that believe, as of old. They believe in the mortality of man, who can live through eternity only by the gift of eternal life through Christ, and hence in the annihilation of the wicked. The earth will be the future home of the redeemed, and we are upon the eve of Christ's return to earth. Congregations adopting these views are found in Ontario, Canada; Spring Lake, Michigan; Cherokee, Iowa, and Glasgow, Scotland; besides small flocks and isolated families scattered over our continent.

The church in this city had its origin in the efforts of Elders James Evans, J. B. Brown and D. D. Paterson, who labored, in the order mentioned, between 1875 and 1878. In the fall of 1878 the work had assumed such proportions that Elder D. D. Paterson moved his family from Canada to settle here as pastor.

The number of its charter members was thirty-four, of whom Charles A. Haines, William Young, Charles E. Revell, George F. Hawley and Andrew Holmes were elected as the first Board of Trustees. The society held its first meeting in Lincoln Hall, on West Bridge street, and from that time for several years the growth of the church was marked. In 1881 they erected a fine church edifice on Scribner street, having a seating capacity of about 400, which was dedicated May 7, 1882, and, including the site, valued at \$8,000. In 1886 Bishop Paterson left for Europe and never returned. His death occurred in France in the autumn of 1887, and was followed by shocking disclosures of gross im-

moralties of which he had been guilty for several years, and his imposition upon his people here, at whose expense largely he lived abroad, was a revelation that profoundly disturbed and threatened the church during the ministry of the Bishop's brother, Elder John Paterson. The latter officiated from August, 1887, until November, 1888, having been preceded by Elders Northrop and Spencer, who acted somewhat alternately during the previous year. There had been a marked falling off in numbers since 1886, on account of certain suspicious conduct of the Bishop; but his fall so unsettled their affairs for a season that the church was constrained to clear itself before the public, and reorganized its society, with Elder H. A. Olmstead as its pastor, from November, 1888, throughout 1889.

For some little time this society did not hold meetings, and their church edifice is now occupied by the United Brethren Congregation. The Children of Zion Society though have lately been revived and they now hold services at the residences of their brethren.

**First Church of the Evangelical Association (English)**—Corner West Bridge and Straight streets.—This congregation is connected with the Grand Rapids District of the Michigan Conference of the Evangelical Association. This Association was founded in 1800 by the Rev. Jacob Albright of Pennsylvania. The "Albrights," so-called, possessed a healthy missionary spirit. Their influence grew, and their borders were extended until to-day this church is not only represented in the United States and Canada, but in Germany, Switzerland, Japan and China. In doctrine and polity this church is very similar to the M. E. Church.

The Society in this city owes her origin to the labors of several ministers of the Michigan Conference. In 1882, Rev. C. Ude first came from Caledonia, Mich. He found a few Evangelicals. They held their services in private houses. His successor, Rev. H. Schuknecht, organized a class of 19 members, June 1, 1883. This class was incorporated as the "Zion Society of the Evangelical Association." They rented Koch's Hall on West Bridge St., in which to hold their public meetings. Rev. John Miller, Maple Hill, also preached here during this year.

The Michigan Conference in 1884 stationed Rev. L. V. Soldan at Grand Rapids. Soon the Society decided to secure a house of worship and the corner-stone for the new church was laid Aug. 3,

1884, by the Revs. H. Schneider of Ionia and L. Brumm of Caledonia, and Oct. 19, 1884, Bishop Thos. Bowman dedicated to the service of the True God this new edifice, as the Zion Church of the Evangelical Association, a neat brick structure, capable of seating 350 people.

Rev. N. Wunderlich succeeded Rev. Soldon, and labored for 2 years. Rev. H. Schneider served this church 3 years (1887-1890). During his pastorate the Society was partially relieved of the \$2,000 debt on their church. The Michigan Conference gave \$1,000 and loaned \$500. After being thus relieved the Society made splendid progress, financially and numerically. The next pastor was Rev. C. C. Weber. His second year was not finished on account of sickness. So Rev. H. Huelster supplied the rest of the year and was returned for one more year. In 1893 Rev. F. W. Dill assumed the pastorate. An unpleasant difficulty arose at this time, which caused a severe loss to the Society. But by heroic efforts the Society endured the loss and labored in hope, Rev. Dill's ill health also obliged him to resign, and Rev. S. Copley served a short time.

Rev. J. J. Schuknecht assumed the pastorate in 1894 and labored for four years. This church was, up to date, a German church. But during the labors of this pastor the language question was a vital one. The result was a change from the German language to the English. Rev. E. G. Frye followed and was pastor for two years (1898-1900). The next pastorate was that of Rev. H. A. Deckers (1900-1901). He was followed by Rev. W. L. Martin (1901-1905). His labors were very successful.

The church is in a prosperous condition. Membership, 106. Sunday School of 140 members. An active Young People's Alliance. Value of property of church, \$5,000. Annual expenditure over \$800. Conversions occur and members are being added continually.

In April, 1905, Rev. C. B. Stroh assumed the pastorate. One thing of importance has occurred during his brief pastorate, namely the church name has been changed. The Trustees have changed the name Zion Church to First Church of the Evangelical Association, which it is now called.

**St. John's German Evangelical Lutheran Church**—12 Mt. Vernon street.—The St. John's Congregation was organized June 15th, 1880, by Rev. Fr. Mueller.

As a member of the German Evangelical Synod of North



America, it is, in general religious principles and customs, in closest touch with the Evangelical (State) Church of Germany.

Under the first pastor the church edifice was erected. Last year (1904) the basement was renovated and modernly equipped, at a cost of \$2,000. This year (1905) a 25-foot lot adjoining the church on the south side was acquired, so that the whole property, including the parsonage, represents a value of about \$22,000.

The congregation consists of 117 families as members, and besides these about 100 families more worship with us and send their children to Sunday School. The latter has 200 pupils with 19 Sunday School teachers. There is a Ladies' Aid Society with 106 members, a Young People's Society with 90 members, a Young Ladies' Sewing Society (Tabeta Society) with 25 members and a Ladies' Sewing Circle.

Financially, the congregation is prospering and is growing more and more interested also in home and foreign missions.

The pastors in charge were: Fr. Mueller (1880-1884), C. Grauer (1884-1885), L. Bach (1885-1886), A. Schmidt (1886-1889), D. Greiner (1889-1895), P. Keinath (1895-1897). F. R. Schreiber, the present pastor, has been here since March 3, 1898.

**Trinity (English) Evangelical Lutheran Church.**—This congregation is one of the youngest of the city, having been organized in 1896. Their first services were held in Y. M. C. A. parlors in May of that year. One month thereafter the Rev. C. J. Keifer was called to the pastorate of the Mission, and in the following September entered upon his duties.

The congregation was formally organized December 9, 1896, with 61 charter members. The first officers elected were: G. A. Kranse and George Cress, Elders, and J. J. Blickle and Holmes Brown, M. D., Trustees. Later, the following were appointed a building committee: G. A. Kranse, George Cress, W. W. Huelster, A. G. Holmes, J. J. Blickle, Wm. Mohrhard.

In 1898 the Mission erected its house of worship at Crescent and Bostwick streets at a cost of \$11,000, including the ground. On November 20, 1899, Rev. Keifer resigned, and the following spring a call was given the Rev. J. Wm. Ott, of Gettysburg, who entered upon his duties in July, 1900. Since his pastorate, the indebtedness, amounting to \$2,500 (which was in addition to a \$2,500 non-interest-bearing debt held against it by the Board of Home Missions) has been entirely paid up by voluntary contribu-

tions, and the congregation became self-supporting July 1, 1904, and no longer considered a mission. They now number 165 members. Sunday School enrolls 157; Y. P. S. C. E., 38; Ladies' Aid Society, 30; King's Daughters, 10; Trinity Ten, 10; Men's Club, 35. All are in a flourishing condition and this congregation has the promise of a prosperous future.

**German Evangelical Lutheran Church of Immanuel**—Corner East Bridge and North Division streets.—The founding of this church dates from March, 1856. On the 11th of May their first pastor entered upon his office here, and the church was incorporated June 15, 1856, as "St. Immanuel's Church," by fifty-two members. The first Trustees were Christian C. Blickle, Christoph Kusterer, Henry Bremer, John Schneider, Christian Kusterer and Frederick Oesterle. This church, belonging to the Synod of Missouri, adheres to the unaltered Augsburg Confession and all the symbolical books of original Lutheranism; observes monthly communion, the Church Year, and the 31st of October as Reformation or Luther's Day.

The terms of admission require previous instruction in Bible history, the Confessions and Catechisms of the church. In accordance with these views of the necessity of thorough preparation for church membership, are their practices.

The officers of the church include 5 Church Wardens at present—Adolf Messerschmidt, Albert Schroeder, Christop Carstens, Gottlieb Jakobitz and Andrew Beyer. Present Trustees are: Frederick Krekel, John Sehler, W. G. Herpolsheimer, Charles Stein and J. A. J. Friedrich, Sr. The School Board—Julius Wagner, Daniel Buehler, J. A. J. Friedrich, Jr., Julius Ueecker and Charles Merkle—together with the pastor, constitute the Church Council, having advisory power, the congregation meeting the first Sunday afternoon of every month for the transaction of business.

The first church building, located at the corner of East Bridge and North Division streets, was erected and dedicated in 1857. A transept was added in 1872, making its seating capacity 450 and in the basement a school room for ninety pupils. The growth of the congregation from 1880 on made the erection of a larger building imperative. This was done in 1889 and 1890. In the latter year the present church was dedicated; it is located at the old place, built in Gothic style and has a seating capacity of 1,000, a peal of three bells, a fine organ and all modern improvements,

among others 10 doors (for ingress and exit), at a cost of \$35,000.

In 1887 the congregation erected at the corner of Second and Pettibone streets a parochial school building, 2 story, 40x80 feet, for the accommodation of the smaller children of members living on the West Side. The first floor accommodates 80 children is well lighted and ventilated; the second story is the residence of the teacher, Mr. E. H. Dress, a veteran school master of some 40 years' standing. In 1892 a new substantial school building was erected on Crescent Place, opposite Butterworth Hospital, at a cost of \$8,000 and can accommodate 200 pupils. It contains four well-lighted ventilated, steam-heated class rooms, with all modern improvements and is at present attended by about 140 pupils, instructed by three teachers: Mr. J. G. Nuechterlein, first, second and third grades; Miss Frieda Wedekind, fourth and fifth, and Mr. Carl Zautner sixth, seventh and eighth. The curriculum provides for a course in German and English and all the ordinary studies of those languages and thorough daily drill in Bible History, Catechism, Scripture recitations and hymns of the church. This system, so popular among the Lutherans, aims to furnish an education such as our public school system renders impossible.

In 1896 preaching in the English language was introduced into the church.

The following six pastors have ministered to this people: The Revs. F. W. Richmann 1856 to 1858; W. Achenbach, 1859 to 1863; J. L. Daib, 1863 to 1870; A. Crull, 1871 to 1873; H. Koch, 1873 to 1884 and C. J. T. Frincke, the present incumbent, since 1884. Number of male voters, 135; of communicants, 850, and of adherents, 1,200.

**Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church**—Southwest corner of Court and Valley streets.—In the autumn of 1871, Carl Nordberg, a sea captain, came from New York or Boston to reside here. He forthwith zealously interested himself in the religious welfare of his Swedish countrymen here. He boarded in a Swedish family by the name of Hempel, and in their dwelling gathered his countrymen for religious services. The fruits of his efforts appeared in the following winter or early spring, when the ladies of the circle thus drawn together organized a sewing society, to raise funds for missionary work among the Swedes of this city. Soon after, different ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustinian Synod of America, residing at Chicago and elsewhere, were induced to visit them for this purpose two or three times a year. During one of

these missionary visits by the Rev. P. Erikson of Chicago, and under his direction, on the 25th of April, 1873, sixteen members organized and were incorporated under above name. J. Newberg was elected Chairman of the Society, and C. Hakenson, Secretary, each for one year. The next day they purchased the site of the old church on Sinclair street for \$500, the first payment of \$50 being made by the sewing society, and a committee was appointed to solicit for a building fund. A constitution was adopted and signed by five gentlemen, to-wit: John Newberg, Chas. Hackenson, Emil Kilstrom, A. J. Anderson and C. J. Lindberg. In January 1874, they secured the services of the Rev. N. A. Yongberg, pastor of the churches at Whitehall and Lisbon, for one day every other week, at a salary of \$150 per annum, and it was resolved that the meetings, before held in private residences, should be held in the German Lutheran Church at the corner of East Bridge and Division streets, they paying a rent of \$2 for every meeting held therein. This movement proved so satisfactory that the society resolved on September 7th of same year to erect a church edifice, 36 feet by 60, 20 feet high. Its cost was \$3,500. In 1880 the Rev. A. Hult, pastor of the church at Sparta, was secured at a salary of \$300, giving to this church half his time. In the fall of 1884 their pastor moved to this city to devote his chief attention to this church. Accordingly the congregation raised his salary to \$400, and the Conference for one year granted missionary aid in the sum of \$250. Mr. Hult resigned in the autumn of 1885, and was succeeded by the Rev. J. A. Norlin, who commenced labor here in July, 1886, was succeeded by Rev. P. Quist, who remained six years, and was followed by Rev. V. Tengwald, who also remained six years, to be succeeded by Rev. J. A. Eckstrom, who, after four years' service, resigned, and at this time the church has no regular pastor. During the time Rev. Quist filled the pulpit, two lots were purchased, upon which was built a parsonage, the cost of the lots and building being \$3,500, upon which there is still an indebtedness of \$2,600, which they are trying to cancel by direct subscription of its members.

In June, 1889, the initiatory step toward a change of location was taken, by the purchase of a new site at the corner of Court and Valley streets, upon which the building of a church was begun in July. The corner-stone was laid according to their ritual, and with appropriate addresses, August 25. This is a brick ve-

neered building, 40x70 feet, with a basement, adorned with a spire 95 feet in height, which contains a bell. It will seat 600, and cost about \$6,000, making the property worth about \$8,000. Having worshiped in the old home until the new was completed, the congregation entered the latter December 22, 1889.

**Swedish Evangelical Missionary Church.**—On June 12, 1880, the Swedish Evangelical Missionary Church was organized. The congregation belongs to the "Swedish Evangelical Missionary Covenant of America," a branch of the Lutheran body. This association performs missionary work in this country among the Scandinavians, and in China and Alaska.

In 1895 a new brick and stone edifice was erected on Broadway near First street, with a seating capacity of 528, with an additional 28 seats for the choir, at a cost of \$18,000, the dedication ceremonies taking place in January, 1896. The annual contributions from all branches of the church is \$3,100. The present membership is 250, and the Sunday School has 264 scholars, with Charles J. Lundgren as superintendent.

On May 1, 1889, Rev. F. A. Staberg closed his labors. He is now deceased. He was followed by Rev. C. A. Nyren, who was temporary pastor for a few months and was followed by Rev. Constantine Olson, from July 4, 1890, to December 4, 1893. Rev. C. A. Nyren was then called, and labored from 1894 to November 13, 1901. He was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. A. G. Sporrang, who commenced his labors September 5, 1902. For six months previous Rev. Anderson filled the pulpit while the congregation waited for Rev. Sporrang. The congregation will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary Thanksgiving day, 1905, and during this year will also cancel the indebtedness on the church, which now amounts to \$4,000.

**Church of Christ (Disciples)**—Northwest corner of Lyon and Barclay streets.—This society was organized in July, 1874, with nineteen members. The officers then chosen were: I. J. Whitfield, T. D. Haight and William Bellamy, elders; and L. C. Stow, R. J. Stow, S. G. Milner and Milan Hibbard, deacons. For several months the infant congregation met for worship at the homes of members, but early in 1875 the Swedenborgian Church, corner of Lyon and North Division streets, was rented, and the Rev. S. E. Pearre, D. D., secured as their first pastor. With the exception of one year, during which they occupied the old brick house of

worship vacated by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, which stood on the northeast corner of the present postoffice site, the congregation had the use of the Swedenborgian house until September, 1887, when they entered their own. Dr. Pearre had the pleasure of witnessing some growth of his charge during his pastorate of a little over a year. His successor, the Rev. J. S. Hughes, served but six months, when a vacancy of nearly a year ensued. Early in 1878 the Rev. T. D. Butler, of Detroit, began his year of successful labor, at the close of which the church was again dependent upon visiting pastors or the lay services of its members, chiefly those of Dr. Whitfield. However, in May, 1880, they rejoiced in the advent of a pastor, the Rev. J. H. Hammond, whose four years among them accomplished much for the development of the church. The membership numbered 160 when he resigned in 1884. In December following the Rev. W. F. Richardson came as their pastor, and remained until February 1, 1890.

In 1890 Rev. W. J. Russell became pastor and preserved a wholesome and healthy condition of the church. Members were added, and aside from the church he held meetings in a school house a short distance southwest of the city where several took membership.

Succeeding Rev. Russell the Rev. Errett Gates, now in the Divinity House of the Disciples at the Chicago University, became the pastor, and under his pastorate the membership grew stronger in understanding from his educational thoughts and work. He resigned, however, after three years of labor in the church, to assume his educational pursuits. Rev. E. B. Widger then served for one year, after which Rev. F. P. Arthur entered the service in May, 1899. The church has steadily increased in membership, and the congregation bears the kindest interest in each other. The new church on 5th avenue was built and dedicated and is now in a prosperous condition, with Wm. Bellamy, son of Elder Wm. Bellamy, as pastor.

**Fifth Avenue Church of Christ.**—This church was dedicated in December, 1901, the building having been erected largely through the earnest efforts of F. P. Arthur, pastor of the Lyons Street Church of Christ, and the children of Dr. I. J. Whitfield. W. E. Colegrove supplied the pulpit for a few months, until Rev. Frank Green, who was at the time a student in Bethany College, West Virginia, was able to take charge. Mr. Green began his

work in June, 1902. He was greatly beloved by his people, proving himself to be a most capable, active minister, and the work grew rapidly under his administration. Rev. A. L. Martin succeeded him in November, 1903, and continued until April, 1904. Rev. W. A. Bellamy began his ministry with the church the first of July, 1904, and is still its pastor.

The church is beautifully located in the best residence portion of the city, and promises to become a very helpful influence in the rapidly growing South Grand Rapids.

**St. Mark's Episcopal Church**—North Division, opposite Pearl street.—The Rt. Rev. Samuel A. McCoskry, the first bishop of the Diocese of Michigan, who was consecrated July 7, 1836, sent David J. Burger to Grand Rapids as a lay reader in August of that year. Mr. Burger prosecuted his work in the village and vicinity for several weeks, and on Thursday, October 6, 1836, pursuant to a call previously circulated, St. Mark's Church of the village and county of Kent was duly organized. The call referred to bore the signatures of seventeen villagers, as follows: John Almy, S. M. Johnson, George Coggeshall, John P. Calder, Henry P. Bridge, D. A. Lyman, John Thompson, John Beach, James Thompson, John W. Peirce, Samuel L. Fuller, Adams N. Lothrop, William Annis, James Annis, Michael Deemes, G. C. Nelson and C. I. Walker. Mr. Burger presided as chairman of the meeting, and John Almy was chosen secretary. George Coggeshall and Jefferson Morrison were elected Wardens; and John Almy, John Thompson, Charles Shepard, Wm. A. Richmond, Simeon M. Johnson, D. A. Lyman, Edward Emerson and Henry P. Bridge were elected vestrymen. Mr. Coggeshall was elected treasurer; Mr. Burger was chosen to represent the newly-formed parish in the convention then to be held in Detroit. Mr. Burger was ordained a deacon while in Detroit, but did not return here, and the parish languished. Yet the records state that the bishop visited the parish and conferred the rite of confirmation upon a class of two persons on Sunday, June 17, 1838. This was the first service here of the kind.

In July, 1838, a paper was circulated looking to the reorganization of St. Mark's, and fourteen signatures were appended thereto; but no official action was taken in the premises.

On November 18, 1839, a meeting of the friends of Protestant Episcopal Church for the election of wardens and vestrymen

was held at the office of George Martin, which resulted in the selection of Geo. Coggeshall and Charles I. Walker for wardens, and John Almy, H. R. Osborne, Charles Shepard, F. J. Higginson, J. M. Smith, James M. Nelson and Henry P. Bridge for vestrymen. The Rev. M. Hoyt was called by the vestry to assume charge of the parish, as its first rector, at a salary of \$600 per annum, which for those times was really extravagant, and he entered at once upon the duties of the position. During the winter of 1839 and 1840, regular services were held in a frame building on the northeast corner of Canal and Bronson streets, in a room given free of rent.

In the spring of 1840 measures were adopted toward the construction of a suitable church edifice. To this end Charles H. Carroll and Lucius Lyon had given a piece of ground on the northwest corner of Division and Bronson streets, and the society enlarged the site by the purchase of the lot adjoining on the west, paying therefor \$100. The building erected was a frame, twenty-seven by forty-one feet in size, with posts fourteen feet high, at a cost of \$800; and it furnished seating capacity for 170 persons. Subscriptions from the congregation for building purposes were sometimes paid in money, but more frequently in material, labor and store orders. The house was consecrated by the bishop on Sunday, April 25, 1841. The chancel was at the north end of the building; while from a little loft over the entrance at the south end, a vocal quartette, with violin, bass viol and flute accompaniment, furnished music for the services. There were forty pews, of which about three-fourths were rented, producing an annual income, when collected, of \$450. The communicants numbered eight. Among the names connected with the parish, in addition to those already mentioned, may be found those of John T. Holmes, Henry R. Williams, T. B. Church, A. Hosford Smith, P. R. L. Peirce, James H. Morse, Charles P. Calkins, E. B. Bostwick, Robert S. Parks, S. O. Kingsbury, Wm. A. Blackney, Amos Roberts, Aaron Dikeman, Damon Hatch, Henry Martin, Ezra T. Nelson, Lovell Moore and others.

Mr. Hoyt had resigned the rectorship April 1, much to the regret of his parishioners, for he was beloved and popular among them. The financial condition of the church may be inferred from the fact that committees were appointed to solicit subscriptions to pay arrearages of the salaries of pastor and sexton and other obligations. In September Dr. Alonzo Platt was chosen to



fill a vacancy as vestryman, and April 17, 1843, he was chosen warden together with William A. Tryon. For a year and a half all efforts to secure a rector were fruitless. The salary now offered was \$300. The Rev. M. Schuyler, of Marshall, visited the parish and prepared a class of nine for confirmation at this time, upon whom the bishop soon after laid hands, which then made the membership thirty in number. A brighter day was dawning, and the Rev. Francis H. Cuming, of St. Andrew's, Ann Arbor, was called May 24, 1843, a salary of \$400 promised him, to be paid quarterly in advance, and the expense of transporting his goods from Jackson or Detroit to this place. A house had been rented, with five acres of land, for one dollar a week; and the doctor was advised to bring with him everything he might need.

On the first of October, 1843, he entered upon this field of labor. Within the first year of the new rectorate it became necessary to increase the seating capacity of the church building. This was accomplished by adding an extension of twenty feet in length, or, more properly speaking, by cutting the building in two and inserting a section, which gave a total of sixty pews, with an aggregate rental value of \$791 per annum.

The rapid development of the lower town induced the parish officers to secure a site for church purposes farther south, and two lots on "Prospect Hill" were purchased, which were soon after exchanged for the present site. Early in 1847 the Ladies' Sewing Society loaned to the vestry for this purpose \$200, which was to be refunded as soon as there was a surplus in the treasury. Mr. E. B. Bostwick gave a lot on the same terms. The present church building was first occupied in October, 1848. In shape it was a parallelogram, having the same width as now, but in length extending from the front only about twenty feet beyond the transept corners. The corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies in the southwest corner. The formal consecration of the edifice took place September 9, 1849. Erastus Hall was the first sexton in this building. For his services in that capacity, and as collector of pew rents, he was paid an annual stipend of \$100, and was expected to furnish, at his own expense, fuel and lights during his incumbency. The towers were erected in 1851, and four years thereafter the building was enlarged by the addition of the choir and transepts, bringing it substantially to its present cruciform plan. The entrances at the front were near

the towers. The old structure on Bronson street was sold, and subsequently removed to the northeast corner of North Division and Park streets, where, much changed, it is now used as a shop.

Early in 1850 a charter was obtained from the State Legislature, authorizing the establishment of an institution for academic, collegiate, and theological learning, to be located in Grand Rapids, and known as St. Mark's College. The incorporators were the bishop of the diocese, who was ex-officio president of the Board of Trustees, and seventeen others, the rector of the parish and James M. Nelson, George Kendall and Alonzo Platt representing Kent county, the remaining thirteen being chosen from ten other counties to the eastward and southward. This was immediately put into active operation, so far as pertained to the female branch, under the supervision of two young ladies as teachers, in a house on Lyon street, east of Division. There were fifty pupils in attendance. In September of the same year the trustees elected the Rev. Charles C. Taylor, who had been Dr. Cuming's assistant for a couple of years, president of the college, and completed arrangements for opening the male department, with D. D. Van Antwerp as principal, and forty pupils enrolled. The vestry and Sunday School rooms adjoining the church were used for this branch of the preparatory school. For a year or more the college seemed to flourish. The catalogue for 1851-52 shows an enrollment of 224 students, of whom 98 were males and 126 females. The faculty were as follows: Charles C. Taylor, A. M., president, professor of mathematics, natural philosophy and astronomy; Francis H. Cuming, A. M., professor of moral and intellectual philosophy; David D. Van Antwerp, A. B., professor of Latin, Greek and Hebrew; Daniel B. Lyon, A. B., professor of geology, evidences of Christianity and political economy; Aaron R. Van Antwerp, principal of the primary department; Miss Jeanette A. Hollister, principal of the female department and teacher of French; Miss Thirza Moore, assistant. The curriculum embraced a full course of instruction in literature, science and the arts, ancient and modern languages and theology. Other departments, embracing law and medicine, were projected. This institution did excellent work for two and a half years. In the second year the prospect of development and permanence was so fair that suitable college buildings were deemed necessary, and a site was obtained near the corner of Lyon street and Col-

lege avenue, but the patronage fell off, and as there was no endowment to sustain the enterprise, and the income fell short of the required sum, its career was terminated.

In May, 1861, Dr. Cuming was granted leave of absence to accept the chaplaincy of the Third Michigan Infantry, and went with his regiment to the front. He tendered his resignation in October following, and the acceptance closed a pastorate of eighteen years, during which time he had labored assiduously, day and night, summer and winter, in season and out of season, for St. Mark's. His work had been crowned with success, and he had seen the parish, starting from a single score of communicants, increase to a membership of nearly three hundred. His death, which occurred in the following year, is recorded on the mural tablet seen in the south transept, placed there in loving remembrance by a society known as the Corban Guild.

During the vacancy occasioned by the absence of Dr. Cuming, the pulpit was ably filled by the Rev. David Clarkson until the spring of 1862, when his failing health compelled him to withdrawn from active duty.

Dr. Josiah P. Tustin accepted a call to St. Mark's in July, 1863, and remained until 1870, when he resigned in order to enjoy the benefit of foreign travel. During his pastorate St. Paul's Memorial Chapel on Turner street was established as a mission, for which St. Mark's Church erected the present church building in 1869. It was consecrated by the bishop in 1870, and in 1871 its congregation became an independent parish. This rector greatly endeared himself to his flock and others by his zeal, culture and

For four months the pulpit was supplied by the Rev. Gerrit E. Peters; and in October following, the Rev. Samuel Earp entered upon a rectorate of six and a half years. The rector felt that immediate, persistent endeavor should be made to secure for the church an abiding place in the outlying portions of the city. Grace Mission was started in 1871, and organized as Grace Church in 1875. The chapel of the Good Shepherd was built in 1873, which in 1886 became a distinct and separate parish, organized under the name of Trinity.

The year 1872 was given to enlarging, repairing, and beautifying St. Mark's church edifice, and the erection of the chapel at the southeast corner. These involved an expenditure of about \$36,000, one-third of which sum was provided by voluntary con-

tributions, the other two-thirds remaining as an indebtedness, secured by mortgage upon the realty. While the repairs were in progress, services were conducted in the Holland church building on Bostwick street, now Van Driele's warehouse, which had been vacated by the Second Reformed Church in November, 1871. St. Mark's Church occupied it in May, 1872, and until their return to their own renovated sanctuary. St. Mark's was formally reopened on the 16th of February, 1873.

At a special meeting of St. Mark's Vestry, May 13, 1873, it was unanimously "Resolved, That we are in favor of a division of the diocese." The subject was brought to the notice of the Diocesan Convention of that year, by P. R. L. Peirce, a delegate from this parish, supported by Dr. L. C. Chapin, of Kalamazoo; discussed, and laid over to the next convention. The fortieth annual convention of the diocese of Michigan was held in St. Mark's Church, and the division was then agreed upon, under a resolution offered by Mr. Peirce, seconded by S. L. Fuller. The constitution and canons relative to such cases being complied with, the bishop signified his assent, and the new diocese, called "Western Michigan," was created. Pursuant to a call by the bishop, a special convention was held in this church, December 2, 1874, to perfect its organization and elect a bishop. The choice fell upon the Rev. George DeNormandie Gillespie, D. D., rector of St. Andrew's Church, Ann Arbor, who was consecrated in this building, on St. Matthias' Day, February 24, 1875.

The pastorate of the Rev. Samuel Earp was one of remarkable aggressiveness. He was a man of unusual physical and mental vigor and of untiring zeal. But the parish was overtaken by the financial panic of 1873 with a debt of \$20,000 on its hands, incurred for church improvements and enterprises. On Easter Day, 1877, Mr. Earp bade his parish farewell, and was immediately succeeded by the Rev. George D. E. Mortimer. The circumstances just mentioned had produced a depressive effect. The indebtedness was somewhat reduced, but the varied and urgent claims upon the church for pecuniary help prevented its removal. The liberality of the parishioners was great, but the load was not a light one; and notwithstanding the fact that in four years, 1877 to 1880, the sum of \$48,000 passed through the church treasury, the secured indebtedness, at the end of that period, remained at \$22,000, including a mortgage of \$4,000 on

the rectory at 41 Sheldon street. Mr. Mortimer retired in November, 1880, having rendered earnest, faithful service to this people for the space of three and a half years. The vestry extended a call to the Rev. Spruille Burford, of Jamestown, N. Y., who accepted and entered upon his duties on the second Sunday of Advent, 1880. He at once declared war against the church debt. The effect was seen at Easter, when \$16,500 found their way into the offertory. The valuable rectory already mentioned was turned by sale into assets to meet their liabilities. The liquidation of this indebtedness brought great relief and inspired new hope. On All Saints' Day, 1883, the "surpliced choir" made its appearance, being the first of its kind in the diocese. The present rectory, northeast corner of Lyon and Bostwick streets, was purchased in the spring of 1884 of D. P. Clay. On the third Sunday in the Epiphany tide of 1886 Mr. Burford ended his rectorship to accept a call to St. Timothy's Church, New York city. He was assisted from November, 1881, till January, 1883, by the Rev. James B. Mead, a young clergyman, and from January, 1883, until October, 1884, the rector's classmate, the Rev. Peter MacFarlane, rendered him valuable assistance, and organized and trained the surpliced choir. During his five years there were added to the church 214 members by confirmation; the voluntary subscriptions for church purposes aggregated nearly \$57,000, and the charitable and benevolent associations and societies connected with the parish were augmented and strengthened, while others were set in motion. For sixteen months prior to the resignation of Mr. Burford, the Rev. Frederick A. DeRosset was assistant minister, but after Dr. Fair was installed he accepted a call South, and the new rector of St. Mark's, who came from the Church of the Ascension, Baltimore, Md., was alone in his care for this flock.

The Rev. Campbell Fair, D. D., assumed charge of the church on the 6th of November, 1886, and Mr. DeRosset remained until January, 1887.

A mission had for several years been founded and nurtured under the auspices of St. Mark's in the village of Newaygo. Several new fields have since been entered. Services are held in Sparta and Rockford, and missions have been established and maintained in Walker township and the town of Paris. Mission work was in 1888 begun in New England Hall on Plainfield

avenue. The suburban mission in Oakdale Park was new ground also occupied in 1888. The Rev. W. Ball Wright was the rector's assistant from March, 1889, until the end of the year, when Dr. Fair again assumed charge and remained rector until 1897, when he resigned and Dr. McCormick succeeded him in February, 1898, and is still pastor. His assistants have been the Revs. Charles R. Hodge, Joseph H. Dodshon and Francis T. Russell.

In 1903 an adjoining lot was purchased north of the church, and a parish house was built at a cost of \$20,000, and all completed in 1903. The church and parish house are together valued at \$85,000. The vestrymen of the parish are as follows: W. R. Sheby, C. G. A. Voigt, W. J. Stewart, P. C. Fuller, C. S. Hazeltine, L. E. Knappen, James H. Campbell, Edward Lowe and E. H. Hunt. Mission schools and kindergartens are maintained by the parish in different parts of the city. There are at present, 1905, about 867 communicants.

**Grace Church, Episcopal.**—Northeast corner of Cherry and South LaFayette streets. The Rev. Samuel Earp, then rector of St. Mark's, in October, 1873, instituted a mission work in the old public school building, northeast corner of Wealthy avenue and Prospect street, which was the origin of Grace Church. It received some aid from St. Mark's, more from its rector, and the balance required from interested persons. Thus fostered, the enterprise succeeded, and February 15, 1875, was organized as a church, with thirteen charter members, and the following vestrymen chosen: T. I. Tanner, C. B. Mosher, A. J. Mitchell, William Luther, J. M. Crane, G. W. Hardy, and C. Tanner. The present grounds, having a frontage of 115 feet on South Lafayette street, were then bought. The founder of the mission was its leader and minister until March, 1874. Since then the following rectors have labored here: The Revs. Seth S. Chapin, from March, 1874, to September, 1875; W. H. Knowlton, September, 1875, to March, 1879; Charles W. Ward, June, 1879, to September, 1880; F. C. Coolbaugh, December, 1880, to September, 1886; G. W. West, February, 1887, to September, 1887; T. J. Knapp, D. D., January, 1888.

In 1891, the Rev. J. Brewster Hubbs became rector, and was succeeded in 1897 by Rev. R. H. Gairdner, the present pastor.

The former brick house of worship that seated 340, and with its site estimated at \$10,000, was built in 1877-78, the corner

stone being laid in September, 1877, and in 1884 a pleasant rectory was added, situated south of the church, at a cost of \$2,500, making the total value of the property about \$15,000. In 1892 the church was rebuilt and, together with the new rectory, cost \$27,000, upon which there is an indebtedness of \$8,500.

The societies that are performing effective work in their various departments are as follows: The Ladies' Society, The Young People's Guild, and The Pansy Guild.

**St. John's, Episcopal**—Soon after the platting of this park, St. Mark's Church, through its pastor, was the pioneer in establishing a mission there. There being no accommodations for a Sunday school, the regular church service was held in the residence of John Nelson, the Post Office of South Grand Rapids. This met with such encouragement that a suitable house of worship became necessary. Accordingly Messrs. Wilson Brothers gave a lot 50 by 125 feet on the corner of Seymour street and Cottage Grove avenue for a chapel; the residents of that section built the stone foundations in March, 1889, and on its completion, furnished the house, leaving the mother church to furnish the materials and defray the expense of building.

It was dedicated in May, 1889, and, as a mission, belonged to St. Mark's parish, whose rector or assistant conducted its regular services until 1892, when the building valued at \$4,000, was purchased by St. John's congregation, and moved from Oakdale Park to Central avenue, near Highland.

The last pastor, Rev. W. J. Webster, resigned in 1904.

**St. Paul's Memorial Church, Episcopal**—Turner street, between Third and Fourth streets. The name of the Rev. Josiah P. Tustin, D. D., is connected with this church as its founder, when he was rector of St. Mark's Church. A mission was established there in 1869, and the building of a chapel then begun, which was consecrated February 3, 1870, and received its name from the fact that it contains ten memorial windows, one of which commemorates the devoted life and faithful labors of the Rev. Francis Cuming, D. D., and another the character of the Rev. Dr. Clarkson, a venerable and beloved retired army chaplain, who resided here during the closing years of his life, and in 1861-62 supplied St. Mark's Church. Its seating capacity is 225, and the present value of the property is about

\$5,000. On the 17th of May, 1871, the church was organized, the following eleven gentlemen signing the articles of association: Nathaniel Fisk, M. Thistle, W. R. Scribner, Geo. M. Stuart, E. Anderson, John B. Folger, A. T. Leggett, N. B. Scribner, Wm. R. Walker, E. Marvin, and R. H. Fowle. The Rev. Sidney Beckwith was their first rector, and the succession in the pastorate is as follows: The Revs. S. Beckwith, 1871-79; Eugene Babcock, 1879-80; A. Wetherbee, 1880-82; P. MacFarlane, Assistant at St. Mark's, 1883; Norman Jefferson, 1883-84; P. McFarlane, Sept. 1884-85; J. Rice Taylor, 1885-88. After Easter, 1888, until March, 1890, the services were conducted by C. A. Eaton, a lay reader, acting under Dr. T. J. Knapp, rector of Grace Church. Rev. A. E. Wells, June, 1890, to June, 1892; Rev. A. Mead Burgess, Oct., 1892, to July 1, 1894; Rev. E. M. Duff, from Oct., 1894, to 1897. During his term a Guild House was erected at a cost of \$800. Rev. Arthur H. Locke from 1897 to May 1, 1889; Rev. Charles Donohue, Oct. 1, 1899, is the present pastor, 1905.

There are two missions: St. Matthew's and St. Luke's. St. Matthew's has been under the charge of St. Paul's parish since 1901. St. Luke's was begun by St. Mark's and was re-opened by St. Paul's in 1904.

The guild house is now being enlarged at a cost of \$1,000.

The present membership of the church is 256.

**Good Shepherd, Episcopal**—Northeast corner of East Bridge street and College avenue.—This is one of the children of St. Mark's Church. The house of worship was erected in 1873. The cornerstone was laid by the Bishop of the Diocese May 3, and on September 10 it was consecrated by him as "The Chapel of the Good Shepherd," where a Sunday School was maintained and occasional services were given by the Rt. Rev. George D. Gillespie, Bishop of the Diocese, and the various rectors of the city, chiefly by those of St. Mark's Church. The original seating capacity was about 175, but the mission Sunday School grew in importance and numbers, consequently the edifice was so much enlarged in 1883 as to accommodate 275 persons. The title of the property, now valued at \$6,000, and held without any debt, is vested in "The Association of the Diocese of Western Michigan." In 1885 the present parochial organization was created, and the Rev. Sidney H. Woodford became its rector,



assisted in the management of the temporal and spiritual affairs of the church by Wardens Andrew W. Johnston and Remey Jares, and Vestrymen Thomas Friant, Zenas G. Winsor and D. O. Sproat. The annual income for all purposes amounted in 1889 to \$1,500, no part of which was derived from pew rentals, as the free seat system is in operation. The entire parish was further organized into a single society called Trinity Church Guild, the details of whose work were managed by committees. The Rev. S. H. Woodford resigned in July, 1889, and was succeeded November 17 by the Rev. H. H. Johnston.

Further information is not obtainable.

**First Reformed Church,** corner Barclay and Fountain.—The Domestic Missionary Board commissioned the Rev. Hart E. Waring, of New York, as a western missionary, and about May 20, 1840, he came to this field of labor, and was warmly welcomed by Deacon George Young and a few others. Sunday, May 26, 1840, he preached in a private house, and gave notice of the intention to organize a "Reformed Protestant Dutch Church," as it was then legally styled. This event came to pass Monday, Aug. 12, 1840, at the residence of the new pastor, which stood on the northeast corner of Bronson (now Crescent avenue) and Ionia streets. The following twelve were the constituent members, mentioned in the order in which their names are entered upon the records of that date:

Samuel F. Butler, and Lydia, his wife; Hezekiah R. Osborne, and Emily C., his wife; Adelaide Waring, wife of the pastor; Billius Stocking, and Mary H., his wife; George Young, and Eliza, his wife; James S. Horton, Abraham Horton, Daniel C. Stocking.

The Consistory then chosen was constituted as follows: Elders—George Young and Samuel F. Butler. Deacons—H. R. Osborne, and Billius Stocking. The pastor was its President.

A Sunday school was organized, and Elder Young chosen Superintendent. A choir was soon formed, of ten members, Deacon H. R. Osborne being the chorister, Elias Young playing the flute, and Charles Osborne the bass viol.

The church thus organized first held its services for from six months to a year in the village school house, a small frame building on "Prospect Hill," on the south end of the site now occupied by the Ledyard block on Ottawa street; and next, for

greater convenience, hired at fifty cents a week the upper part of Amos Roberts' building on the northeast corner of Fountain and Ottawa streets, the present site of the Peninsular Club House. There they worshiped nearly a year, next occupying for two or three months the second floor of a frame store nearly opposite Waterloo on Monroe street. At the end of the first year of Mr. Waring's labors the membership numbered twenty-six, and the congregation from forty to seventy-five. The first infants baptized were Elizabeth F., daughter of the pastor, William H., son of Deacon H. R. Osborne, and Henry S., son of Deacon B. Stocking; and the first adults baptized were Euphemia Davis, now the wife of Rev. Dr. Jewett, Baptist missionary to India, now retired, and her sister Vinett, deceased—who were among the first converts during a revival in February, 1841. During the second year the church had won such favor, and the congregations were so large, that, in the autumn of 1841, the necessity of securing a suitable and permanent home was felt. Accordingly the Kent Company offered to give a large lot on the southwest corner of Bridge and Ottawa streets for a church site, and the Consistory on the 3d of January, 1842, concluded to accept this offer, and to build as soon as possible on the ground thus presented, worth then probably \$100.

The plan of the church edifice was at once drawn; its dimensions were to be "38 feet wide, 50 feet long, 10 feet clear in the basement, 20 feet in the main body; Kendall Woodward was appointed chief architect; J. L. Wheeler master mason; Elders George Young and S. F. Butler were chosen as a building committee.

The material for this stone structure was taken from the bed of the river. Ground was broken for the basement the 25th of April, 1842, and on the 9th of May the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, in which the entire population were interested, for it was a great event in the little town, and the house was to be an imposing and magnificent one for those times.

In the autumn of that year the basement, being completed, was occupied, and "Deacon" Young was commissioned to solicit aid in the east to finish the edifice. He spent from October until the spring of 1843 in this work, and reported twenty-four churches visited and \$943.93 collected, but, alas, for the poverty

of those days, the entire fund was consumed in the payment of old debts and expenses, and the auditorium remained in statu quo, the windows being boarded up. Disaffection having arisen between the pastor and Elders Young and Butler, though sustained by the almost unanimous endorsement of the church and the community, in which this was then the leading church, Mr. Waring resigned August 1, 1843. At this date the members numbered thirty-eight, the audiences from 100 to 150, and the Sabbath school fifty scholars. The Rev. Andrew B. Taylor soon after assumed the pastorate, and labored faithfully, but in September, 1848, seeing no signs of promise for the future of the church, he resigned, when by authority of the Board, Dr. Penney was asked to supply the church, but he declined. No successor being secured, the church, having a membership of thirty-three, gradually disintegrated; but, as appears in the history of the Second church, the property was for six years quite as useful as before. The organization for whose use the house was built was practically defunct, only "Colonel" Butler and Deacon Young remaining as trustees to claim and care for the property, but toward the close of 1859 good resulted from a threatening evil. The heirs of the donors of the church site claimed that this property should revert to them, since there was really no legal organization extant, and it was given for church purposes only. Apprised of this, Herman W. Liesveld, Bernard Grootenhuis, Herman H. Van der Stoop and Marinus Harting were at their requests dismissed in December, 1859, from the Second church, to identify themselves with the mis-fortunes of the First, and on the 7th of that month formed a Consistory, and on the 28th a Board of Trustees to incorporate the church. In July, 1860, the Rev. Philip Berry, just entering the ministry, became their pastor, and the reorganization was completed and work resumed with twelve members. With the aid of churches abroad the auditorium was soon finished at an expense of \$1,000, and the church dedicated June 9, 1861. In this early history the following pastors succeeded Mr. Berry, who resigned in July, 1861: the Rev. John M. Ferris, June, 1862, to July 1, 1865; the Rev. Henry E. Decker, July, 1865, to September, 1867; the Rev. Christian Van der Veen, March, 1868, to May, 1871; the Rev. Jacob Van der Meulen, May, 1871, to April 28, 1872; the Rev. Peter Moerdyke, September 21, 1873, to July 27, 1891.

About June, 1863, the location of the church was deemed so unfavorable that the congregation moved to the old meeting house, northeast corner Division and Park streets, built in 1840 by St. Mark's church (see its history), and remained there until the end of 1866. The building belonging to the church was, however, never long vacant or useless, for in that summer of 1863 the auditorium and basement were rented to the United States for hospital purposes, and for three months were a scene of suffering and death, several regiments being encamped here, and later it was put to a variety of uses. But at the close of 1866 it was reoccupied by the congregation, after a thorough renovation costing \$2,000, and the free seat system experiment proved a failure after one year's trial. In 1867 the church owned its first organ, and the next year had its first installed pastor, previous ones being missionaries of the Board of Home Missions, which paid most of their salaries; the self-sustaining period was not reached until Jan. 1, 1880. In the night of May 3, 1872, a "black Friday" visited the church, the morning of Saturday revealing only the charred debris and begrimed stone walls of their sanctuary left. But the fire proved a blessing in disguise, for, though the people worshiped with the Westminster Presbyterian Church for a year and a half, enjoying their kindly proffered hospitalities, the trustees, H. H. Van der Stoop, H. W. Liesveld, M. P. Brown, L. D'Ooge, T. M. Grove and J. A. S. Verdier were on the lookout for a resumption of church life. They soon found their opportunity, for in February, 1873, the old property, containing the ruins of the church, was advantageously disposed of by sale and exchange, which by May following placed them in possession of their present parsonage, 151 Lyon street, and the present house of worship, then bought of the Baptist church, which was building its edifice on Fountain street.

In the month of August, the Rev. J. W. Beardslee, of Constantine, Mich., declined a call tendered him, whereupon Rev. P. Moerdyke was called in August, 1873. He accepted and entered upon his labors September 21, and for one month occupied the pulpit with the Rev. S. Graves, D. D.—each preaching once per Sabbath—which union meetings continued until the Baptist society vacated the building. The statistics of that date are as follows: Members, twenty-nine; hearers, all told, forty in the

morning and twenty-five in the evening; Sunday school scholars forty-five, including pastor's Bible class of nine. This represents about the average strength of the church for ten years previous. But a new epoch had dawned, for since that new beginning a steady, healthful growth has marked all the years. The congregation soon outgrew the seating capacity—420—of the present house, and so strongly desired a more commodious and creditable sanctuary, and better facilities for the ever-enlarging demands of the work, that in April, 1888, a site for a new church at the southeast corner of Fountain and Barclay streets was purchased of Dr. Charles Shepard, for \$10,000, partly paid, upon which they soon built the present house of worship, which is among the most attractive and commodious in the city.

Beginning with the pastorate of Rev. P. Moerdyke, D. D., the church has been a growing and prosperous one. The church developed along all lines of church activity until it ranked among the strongest in the city and the western churches of the denomination.

At present the number of families is about 170, total in full communion 404. The church now raises some \$7,000 yearly for congregational and benevolent purposes.

The following pastors have served the church since 1891: Rev. W. Hall Williamson, May 26, 1892, to Dec. 31, 1898. During his pastorate the new building was completed and dedicated and membership enlarged. Rev. J. M. Van der Meulen, September 1, 1899, to Aug. 5, 1901. During his short pastorate the church received a large accession in membership, and flourished in every line of activity.

Rev. G. Watermulder was called December 11, 1902. He continued to be pastor with the manifest tokens of God's favor in the upbuilding of the spiritual welfare of the church until September 19, 1905, when he resigned to take charge of the 2nd Reformed Church at Kalamazoo. The history of the church has been a checkered one, but since 1873 it has had a steady growth and today holds a position of power and influence.

### THE REFORMED CHURCHES.

By Rev. Matthew Kolyn.

**The Second Reformed Church.**—The Reformed Church in America is the daughter of the Reformed Church in the Neth-  
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erlands. When the first settlers from Holland came to New Amsterdam, in New Netherland, now New York City, in 1622, they brought their pastors and school teachers with them, and set themselves immediately to the task of building churches and schools.

Similarly, when more than two centuries later, in 1847, a new tide of immigration set in from Holland, and hundreds came to the wilds of western Michigan, they immediately established churches of their own faith and order. Under the leadership of Revs. A. C. Van Raalte, D. D., C. Van der Meulen and M. Ypma, they colonized principally in Ottawa and Allegan counties.

In a little while, however, many came to Grand Rapids for the purpose of obtaining work. The pioneer Hollander in this city, and certainly the pioneer churchman, was Francis Van Driele, so long and favorably known in both church and business circles. Soon after him came the families of Albert Kroes and Louis Lageweg, eight young women, and two young men, Joshua Elenbaas and John Roost; soon afterwards reinforced by the families of B. Luten, P. Hendricks and Zwemer. Rev. A. B. Taylor, pastor of the First Reformed Church, welcomed these people and offered to them the use of their church at such times as it was not in use. During the next year Mr. Taylor resigned, and the church discontinued its services, and the Holland people arranged for three services every Sabbath. Mr. Van Driele edified them by reading sermons, except on such occasions as the pastors "from the colony" came to supply the pulpit. Within one year 108 young women, who had come to the city for domestic service, were identified with the rapidly growing, but still unorganized congregation. In 1849 Mr. Van Driele married, and the basement of the church was fitted up as a residence for himself and wife and a few boarders.

In August, 1849, Dr. A. C. Van Raalte, of Holland, organized the church, installing F. Van Driele and G. Dalman as elders. Afterwards A. Esveld and John Bylsma were elected as Deacons, and a full consistory constituted. They continued to hold services in East Bridge street until 1854, when they occupied the new brick church on Bostwick street, now used by Van Driele & Co. as a warehouse.

They seem to have experienced great difficulty in securing a

pastor, until in 1854, the Rev. G. H. Klyn was secured. He was a man of undoubted piety, and his labors were greatly blessed during the first two years of his pastorate, but he seems to have been lacking in strength of character, and when a spirit of secession arose, in 1856, he was prevailed upon to become its leader, and on Sabbath morning, Jan. 27, 1857, declared his purpose to secede. About one-half of the congregation followed him. In a few months he repented of his rash step, made confession of his error and was received back, upon condition that he should not again be considered as a pastor of the Second church. This dissension and disruption, resulting from personal jealousies and animosities, and involving no principles, temporarily crippled the church, and proved the starting point and nucleus of a rival denomination, whose history from this date on runs parallel with that of the Reformed Church in this city and in almost every place where Hollanders are found. But the church soon rallied, so that in 1859, there were 130 communicant members, and more than \$1,500 was contributed for church purposes.

In this year Rev. W. A. Houbolt was called as pastor, and remained two years, closing what may be called "the period of struggle." The period of rapid growth and signal prosperity began with the pastorate of that genial and fatherly man, the Rev. Cornelius Van der Meulen, in 1861. He was eminently successful in winning the hearts of the people, and was instrumental in leading many to faith in Jesus Christ. The church grew rapidly and in 1871 numbered 300 families. The church was enlarged several times, but proved inadequate for the needs of the growing congregation, so that in 1870 the large church on the east side of Bostwick street, near Lyon street, was built, the cornerstone being laid on May 31. This was a large undertaking; for, though the membership was numerically large, nearly all were people of limited means, and many of them poor. When the church was completed it had cost about \$35,000, of which hardly one-third had been paid. [To this was added an organ in 1888, at an expense of \$3,500 and in 1889 the spire was finished, at an expense of \$1,500.]

The pastor continued to labor with zeal and enthusiasm until the infirmities of age compelled him to seek relief in 1873.

Rev. N. H. Dosker was now called from the Netherlands to

succeed him in the pastorate, and proved the man eminently qualified for the work demanded. He was both a strong preacher, and a wise leader; the genial Van der Meulen remained his co-pastor for about three years, or nearly till the day of his death, which occurred in August, 1876, at the age of 76. His memory is sacredly cherished in the hearts of all that are old enough to remember his loving and wise administration and beautiful character. During the next decade immigration continued, and the church grew to more than 700 members and nearly 500 families, and though the large church had seating capacity for more than a thousand worshipers, it was too small, and it was resolved to build two chapels, one in the eastern and another in the northern part of the city; these became the nuclei of the third and fourth churches respectively, as will be seen.

The ten years of the ministry of Rev. N. H. Dosker were years of great progress and the church reached its zenith of prosperity. In 1883 the pastor resigned to accept a call from Kalamazoo.

In 1884 Rev. Egbert Winter, D. D., was called from Pella, Iowa, to assume the pastorate of the church, who, with signal ability and success shepherded this flock for eleven years. During his ministry the church grew in grace and in knowledge. When during the second year of his pastorate the Fifth Reformed Church was organized (see below), it was feared that the Second church would be crippled in its usefulness. But these fears were not realized; though curtailed in numbers, it grew in activity and liberality, and easily maintained its place as the leading church in the classis of Grand River.

The young people preferring the English language in the public service, an English service was arranged for every Sabbath evening (1886). At first, and indeed for several years, both the Dutch services, in the morning and the afternoon were retained; but later the second Dutch service was given up; and this remained the order until Sept. 1, 1903, when the morning service, too, was changed into an English service. This problem of Americanization is a very difficult one; but ultimately, of course, English will be the language used in all the Reformed churches.

A time of trial came to the Second church, in 1895, when



during May the church building was burned to the ground, and in the following month their pastor, Rev. Dr. E. Winter, was called to the Theological Seminary at Holland. Some thought that the last chapter in the history of the church had closed. But the people took fresh courage and set themselves with enthusiasm to the task of building a new church, and within a year a more beautiful edifice, and one much better adapted to the present needs of the church, had arisen, phoenix-like, from the ashes. In 1896 the Rev. D. J. De Bey assumed the pastorate and remained three years and a half. In 1899 the semi-centennial of the church was observed with appropriate services. The present pastor, the Rev. Matthew Kolyn, assumed charge in April 1901.

During the year 1904 the last vestige of debt on the property was wiped out, and it was resolved to assume the support of a missionary in Japan. Miss Grace Thomasma, a member of the church, was appointed by the Board of Foreign Missions as such missionary, who sailed for Japan in October, 1904. Not far from \$1,000 was contributed for foreign missions during this year.

The membership of the church numbers 160 families and 350 communicants, with an enrollment of 300 in the Sunday school.

A Ladies' Missionary Society, a Dorcas Society, a Ladies' Aid Society, a Young Ladies' Missionary Society, "Muneer," and an Endeavor Society coöperate with the church in its efforts to advance the Lord's Kingdom. The following constitute the Consistory: Elders Bernard Dosker, Clerk; J. A. Van Der Velde, F. Oltmans, Sr., John Veldman, M. C. Pleune, J. J. Koke, H. P. Witman. Deacons—G. Hoebeke, C. Dosker, H. J. Avink, J. H. Veneklasen, N. Faber, J. J. Van Oostendorp, Wm. Moerdyk.

It was necessary to give a somewhat extended account of this church, as it is the parent church of practically all the Reformed and Christian Reformed churches in the city, and its history must be known to appreciate the sketches that are to follow.

**The Third Reformed Church**, corner of Diamond and Hermitage streets.—In the sketch of the Second church it was stated that owing to the extraordinary growth of the mother church and to accommodate the members living at the eastern and northern limits of the city, chapels were built in these localities.

The first to aspire to the dignity of an independent organization was that in the eastern part of the city, in the neighborhood known as "the Brickyard." The Revs. A. C. Van Raalte, N. H. Dosker, W. P. De Jonge and M. Kiekintveld were appointed a committee to organize. This committee met with those interested on Thursday, Oct. 1, 1875, when 62 members were enrolled, which were followed by 46 others soon after, making a total of 90 families in the course of a few months. The first consistory was composed of the following: Elders—A. Esveld and M. Klaassen. Deacons—A. Buys and E. Grooters.

The first building was 30 by 50 feet, which soon proved too small to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation, and it was enlarged to 50 by 80 feet, and in 1886 again enlarged to 50 by 100 feet, which are the present dimensions, though it has been greatly improved during recent years, and is now an ornament to that part of the city. The seating capacity is about 650.

On Dec. 15, 1875, the first pastor, the Rev. A. Kriekard, was called, who remained with the church for nearly 27 years, resigning on account of failing health in 1902. During all these years he was a power for good in this part of the city, not only building up the church and aiding in starting two other churches, but in elevating the social and moral tone of the community. Through his enthusiastic labors the church grew rapidly, and the tenth annual report showed 185 families and 261 communicants.

In 1878 a commodious parsonage was built on the corner of East and Holbrook streets, and was occupied by the pastor until 1900, when a more modern house was built next to the church on Hermitage street.

A lecture room was built by the young people in 1880, in the form of a separate chapel, at a cost of nearly \$500 and the entire property is valued at about \$12,000.

On April 3, 1903, the Rev. A. W. De Jonge was installed as the second pastor of the church. Under his faithful ministry the church greatly prospered, both materially and spiritually. In October, 1905, he resigned to assume a charge in Iowa. The communicant membership now numbers 400; baptized members (non-communicants), 720. The enrollment of the Sunday school is 416. The organizations laboring in the church are the following: A Men's Missionary Society, a Woman's Mis-

sionary Society, a Dorcas Society, a Young Men's Society, a Young Ladies' Society, and a Young People's Society. The present consistory is constituted as follows: Elders—J. Cornelisse, Clerk; C. De Jonge, A. De Vree, J. Grooters, J. Hakken, J. Kloete, J. Koopman, J. Lindhout, H. Reinhart. Deacons—C. De Wit, C. Spruit, Philip Van den Berg, W. Van der Wiere, M. Van Doorn, A. Van Dussen.

**The Fourth Reformed**, on North Ionia street, might very well be called the twin sister of the Third Church, as it was organized only a few weeks later, and both are daughters of the Second Church.

A committee of the classis of Grand River of which Rev. N. H. Dosker was chairman, organized this church on September 25, 1875. Fifty members were received, and the following elected as a consistory: Elders—Adrian De Leeuw and Leeudert Silvius. Deacons—John Koster and Peter Groeneweg. The last named declining, Wm. Bommelje was chosen in his place. The chapel or church was dedicated November 26 of the same year.

The first pastor, Rev. L. J. Hulst, was installed June 23, 1876. The church grew rapidly by reason of constant immigration, and in 1880 the church was enlarged; a year later there were 177 families and 273 members. At this time, however, the church became affected by the agitation against secret societies, which had broken out in the neighboring city of Holland. The peace of the church was profoundly disturbed, and at a meeting held September 16, 1880, it was resolved by a large majority vote to present a memorial to the classis of Grand River, protesting against the church membership of Masons and members of any other secret order, and unless the General Synod should grant a deliverance in accord with their views, they would take steps to be released from their present ecclesiastical connection.

On September 8, 1881, at a congregational meeting, it was resolved to secede from the Reformed Church, and a year later joined the Hill Christian Reformed Church.

A small minority remained loyal to the denomination, and ought to have been left possessed of the property; but, by a decision of the court under statutes then in force, the seceders took the property, valued at \$5,000.

This loyal minority, consisting of 37 members and 21 families, were recognized by classis as the lawful organization and a

new consistory was elected, constituted as follows: Elders—Francis Van Driele and Wm. Bommelje. Deacons—H. W. Hofs and Justus C. Hertstein.

Deprived of a house of worship they met for a time in an old grocery store on Coldbrook street, between Ottawa and Ionia streets. Ministers of the city and of the classis conducting the services; and when these could not be obtained, sermons were read by the elders.

As soon as matters had assumed definite shape, and order had been restored after the confusion incident to the secession just now described, a pastor was called; and Rev. Peter De Pree was installed November 16, 1882. He threw himself into this work of rebuilding from the bottom with enthusiasm, and the faithful few rallied around him right loyally. In a little while the "store" became too small, and with the generous help of other Reformed Churches in the city and elsewhere, a temporary building was erected on the present site, 539 North Ionia street.

But so strongly did the resuscitated Fourth Church grow, that a permanent home soon became an imperative necessity, and with the help of the Board of Domestic Missions the present suitable house of worship was erected at a cost of \$7,000. It has a seating capacity of 500, and in a basement there are convenient accommodations for the Sunday school and social meetings of the church.

To this a parsonage was afterwards added which in 1904 was moved at a little greater distance from the church, giving a much better appearance to the property, whose present valuation is about \$15,000. Rev. P. De Bree labored faithfully and successfully for eight years, when he was compelled by impaired health to resign in April, 1891.

The church was now well established, had a good property, large audiences, and active organizations, offering an attractive field to a successor.

The succession of pastors since that time has been as follows: Rev. P. J. A. Bouma assumed charge in 1891 and served the church very acceptably until 1894, when he was succeeded by Rev. J. W. Warushius, who labored enthusiastically and successfully until 1900, when he was succeeded in turn by Rev. J. Van Houte, who was an able preacher and genial man, but who

thought it wise on account of frail health to try a change of climate, and in 1903 accepted a call to a church in Iowa.

The present pastor, the Rev. Cornelius Kuyper, assumed charge in January, 1884, and is meeting with encouraging success.

The church now numbers 215 families, and a communicant membership of 400, with 375 enrolled in the Sunday school. The organizations laboring in the church are the following: A Christian Endeavor Society; a Young Men's Christian Association; a Young Ladies' Mission Band; a Dorcas Society; a Woman's Missionary Society of 70 members, and a Men's Missionary Society. The catechetical classes number, in the aggregate, about 200 pupils. The present consistory is constituted as follows: Elders—Wm. Bommelje, Peter Meulpolder, H. W. Hofs, Thomas Ferwerda, Gerrit Van Strien, D Vander Klippe, John G. Cook. Deacons—J. Koole, M. Muste, Peter Braak, Jacob Bastiaanse, Peter Vander Heyde and Peter Van Malsem.

**The Fifth Reformed Church.**—As early as 1882 a considerable portion of the membership of the Second Church, residing in the First Ward, began to agitate the subject of a new organization. The neighborhood was rapidly filling up, and the distance made a general and regular church attendance at the Second Church inconvenient.

For four years the matter did not make much headway, as the parent church was loth to dismiss so many members at one time; but in 1885 the matter was renewedly urged, and a petition sent to the classis of Grand River, which was favorably acted upon at a meeting held on the 13th of January, 1886. The following were appointed a committee to organize: Revs. H. E. Dosker, W. P. De Jonge and Peter De Pree, with Elders A. De Vree and F. Van Driele. Eighty-six (86) persons presented letters of dismissal from the parent church, and a new church was organized, January 28, 1886, the following being elected as members of the consistory: Elders—Evert Welmers, Albert Welmers, John Wormnest and Gerrit Antflink. Deacons—Hermanns Hondorp, G. J. Leppink, Martinus A. Sorber and Albert Stryker. The meetings were held in a hall on Grandville avenue for a while, but this soon proved too small, and in the dead of winter, and in the incredibly short time of four days, willing hands erected a temporary building of 30 by 64 feet, which served the congregation well until the elegant structure still in use was completed in the fall.

The first pastor, Rev. R. H. Joldersma, who was installed May 26, 1886, was just the man to push this infant enterprise. The building of a church and parsonage was immediately determined upon, and the present commodious church building, on Church street and Second avenue, was dedicated on Thanksgiving day of the same year. It has a seating capacity of about 800, which can be increased by 300 by throwing open the Sunday school room, immediately adjoining. The elegant parsonage at the corner was built the next year.

Rev. R. H. Joldersma resigned in March, 1889, and was succeeded by Rev. Ale Bursma, under whose able and faithful ministry of twelve years the church developed along many lines and time a serviceable pipe organ was installed and other improvements made. Grace Reformed Church was organized largely continued to grow stronger. On December 5, 1901, the beloved pastor was suddenly called to be with God, sincerely mourned by the entire congregation, and, indeed, by all that knew him.

The present pastor, Rev. Benjamin Hoffman, entered upon his duties the 26th of June, 1902, and has been very successful in many ways.

The church, which had suffered from an incubus of debt amounting at first to \$10,000, has put forth heroic efforts during the past two years to shake this off with the happy issue that it has now been reduced to a minimum; in the meantime, contributions for benevolence have increased, and extensive repairs have been made. The property represents a value of \$15,000.

The church now consists of 235 families with 405 members in full communion; the entire parish numbers about 1,000 souls.

The Sunday school has an enrollment of 400 pupils, with Mr. J. N. Trompen as the efficient superintendent.

The consistory consists of 16 members and is constituted as follows: Elders—Gerrit Antflink, Piebe Wolters, Fred Brummeler, Harm Wolters, John B. Grooters, Arend J. Welmers, John N. Trompen and Herman Hondorp. Deacons—Cornelius Stryker, John Dykeman, John De Bruin, Henry Eikenhout, Albert Haan, Charles Haltman, Eilke Spoonstra and John Hendricks.

**The Sixth Reformed Church.**—On account of its location at 536 Adams street, near Kalamazoo avenue, this is better known as the Oakdale Park Reformed Church.

During 1888 a considerable number of Hollanders moved to

this new suburb of the city. Dr. Melle Veenboer, who was a prime mover in building up this suburb, donated two lots of 45x125 feet each, for church purposes, giving them in trust to Rev. A. Kriekard until a church should be organized. On February 14, 1889, Mrs. A. C. Brown of New York City, a lady deeply interested in Domestic Mission work, contributed \$200 toward building a chapel, which was dedicated on July 2, 1889. The organization took place on August 9, 1889, 28 members in full communion presenting letters, the majority coming from the Third Reformed Church of this city. The following were chosen as the first consistory: Elders—B. Barendse and G. Jonkhof. Deacons—T. Nyhoff and H. Zuidema.

The first pastor was Rev. J. M. Lumkes, who served the church, until 1893, when he was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Pool, who resigned in 1897.

In 1898 Rev. Peter De Pree, D.D., assumed charge and continued to serve as pastor until failing health compelled him to resign in 1903.

The present pastor is Rev. John De Haau, under whose ministry the church building has been enlarged, and all the departments of church work are well sustained.

The church membership numbers 110, with 105 in the Sunday school.

The property, consisting of church and parsonage, is valued at nearly \$4,000.

The consistory consists of the elders, D. Nauta, C. H. Van Hartesveldt and H. Zuidema; and the deacons, Wm. Van Malsem, H. Rink and Philip Longstreet.

A Ladies' Missionary Society, a well-sustained Endeavor Society, and an enthusiastic Bible-class aid in enlarging the usefulness of this growing church.

**The Seventh Reformed Church.**—This daughter of the Fourth Church was organized May 1, 1890, by a classical committee, consisting of Revs. P. De Pree, A. Bursma and Dr. E. Winter. Thirteen families, comprising 25 members in full communion, applied for this new organization, which was completed by the election of the following consistory: Elders—T. Stadt, Th. Thomasma and G. J. Antflink. Deacons—R. V. d. Kooi and S. Kinkstra.

At first a temporary church was built on Jennette street; but in a few months plans for a new church were adopted, and sub-

scriptions received. The southwest corner of West Leonard and Jennette streets was bought, on which there was a house suitable for a parsonage, and room for a church.

The corner-stone was laid in July, 1892.

The church now grew rapidly, and in June, 1891, the first pastor, Rev. J. Lamar, was installed, who remained only one year, however.

After a vacancy of several months, the Rev. T. W. Muilenburg assumed charge, serving the church for four years, when he was called to the First Church of Grand Haven.

In the meantime the church grew rapidly. After a year's service as pastor by Rev. James F. Zwemer, Rev. M. E. Broekstra assumed charge in October, 1900. Under his faithful and able ministry the church has become strong and is still growing. In August, 1905, the church became vacant by the resignation of Rev. Broekstra. From 13 families in 1890, it has increased to 185 families, and a communicant membership of 350, in 1905; and it may not be long before this church will itself become the mother of another organization. The present consistory consists of the following members: Elders—E. Bajema, J. J. Burggraaf, H. Dekker, T. Feenstra, H. Reuzema, R. Shooks. Deacons—R. Andree, J. Reuzema, J. Riewold, H. Van Velden, L. Verhaar, P. Voshol, G. Zoerhoff.

The church property, consisting of church and parsonage, is valued at \$6,000.

**The Eighth Reformed Church.**—This is located at 165 Burton avenue, about one block west of Clyde Park avenue. It was organized on November 16, 1891, with 20 members in full communion and 8 adult baptized non-communicants.

The occasion for this organization was the growth of a new community just outside of the city, consisting of Reformed people who lived at too great a distance from existing Reformed Churches to attend service with any degree of convenience.

For some time previous services had been held in this vicinity, not only by stated supplies from the classis of Grand River, but also by the labors of the theological student, Peter J. Zwemer, afterwards missionary in Arabia, during three summer months, under the auspices of the Board of Domestic Missions. The committee of organization consisted of the Revs. A. Bursma, Egbert



Winter, D.D., and J. W. Lumkes, and the elders G. Joukhof and A. De Vree.

The following were chosen as members of the first consistory: Elders—Dirk Klomparends and Wm. Timmermans. Deacons—Harm Dracht and Maarten Doornbos.

During the first year 29 families affiliated themselves with the church. Of these 29, only six have continued to reside in this vicinity, however.

During the first two years of its existence the church was supplied by students from the Western Theological Seminary at Holland, with occasional services by neighboring pastors.

The first regular pastor was Rev. R. Duiker, who was installed December 10, 1893, but resigned in 1896, on account of infirmities incident to old age.

In the meantime a church and parsonage had been built at an expense of about \$4,000.

In December, 1896, Rev. Peter Ihrman assumed charge, and remained until March, 1899, when he was succeeded by Rev. Harke Frieling, who labored in this field until October, 1903.

The present pastor is the Rev. John Sietsema, who was installed December 28, 1903.

The church enjoys a steady and satisfactory growth, and with the city building up in that direction, is bound to become a strong organization. Its present strength is 68 families, with a communicant membership of 103 and a Sabbath school enrollment of 160. The church has increased about 25 per cent in the past two years. A Ladies' Missionary Society, a Dorcas Society, and a Young People's Society for Bible Study are valuable aids in the work of the church.

The present consistory consists of the following members: Elders—Lambert Van der Veen, Clerk; Alje Groendyk, J. W. Snelling, James De Kraker. Deacons—J. Rose, Egbert Schipper, N. Hoekenga Adrian De Jonge.

**The Ninth Reformed Church**, located at the northwest corner of Watson and Deloney streets, was organized on February 23, 1892. Prior to this, members of the Second Church had been conducting prayer meetings in this vicinity, but the need of stated Sabbath services was felt, and under the leadership of Rev. R. H. Joldersma this sentiment was crystallized into a petition for organization to the classis of Grand River. A committee

was appointed, consisting of the following: Revs. A. Kriekard, John Lamar and J. Meulendyk, and Elders J. Kloet and Th. Thomasma, who met with those interested on above date and effected the organization by receiving 58 persons by letter, and 19 on confession of faith. As a consistory the following persons were elected: Elders—C. Kate and T. Langeland. Deacons—A. J. Roesink, J. Maatman and H. J. Stokreef. Considerable enthusiasm was manifested from the very start, and within a year a neat church and parsonage had been built. This property is worth about \$9,000, on which there is an indebtedness of \$1,800.

The first pastor was Rev. Henry K. Boer, who assumed charge in September, 1892, and remained until 1895. From the annual report of 1894 it appears that the church had grown rapidly, as it now has 76 families, and 126 members in full communion, with a Sunday school of 158.

In October, 1895, the Rev. J. W. Te Winkel assumed charge and remained the pastor until 1899. During the latter part of his ministry the church was threatened with serious dissension, but no serious consequences resulted. In the spring of 1900 the Rev. H. P. Schuurmans, just graduated from the Seminary, assumed pastoral charge, and labored faithfully and successfully for three years, when he was succeeded, in August, 1903, by the present efficient pastor, the Rev. C. Heines.

The church is in a hopeful condition; during the past year a serviceable pipe organ was added to the equipment. The activities of the church include: a Woman's Missionary Society, a Ladies' Sewing Guild, a Ladies' Aid Society, a Girls' Mission Band, and a Christian Endeavor Society.

**Bethany Reformed Church.**—In numerical order this is the Tenth Reformed Church, being organized on the 25th day of June, 1893. During the previous winter some members of the Third Reformed Church made application to their consistory for advice and aid in efforts looking towards the organization of an English speaking Reformed Church in the eastern part of the city, believing that this was a necessity, if the young people of the parent church were to be saved to the Reformed denomination. The consistory suggested that an experiment should be made by arranging for stated services in a hall for two months. This was acted upon, with the result that the organization of a church was determined upon and effected.

Rev. John Lamar, then pastor of the Seventh Church, was invited to become the first pastor, who labored with great success until 1898.

During the first year of his ministry a site was purchased at the northwest corner of East and Baldwin streets, and a commodious church and pretty parsonage erected, at an expense of about \$10,000. Though constituted largely of people enjoying limited incomes, this has all been paid for; and in the aggregate more than \$25,000 was contributed during the first decade of the history of this church.

In 1899 the second pastor, Rev. James Ossewaarde assumed charge, and labored successfully for three years, when he was succeeded, in 1903, by the present pastor, the Rev. Nicholas Boer, under whose ministry the church is growing rapidly. Begun in 1893 with 13 families, it now numbers 130 families; organized with 33 members, it now numbers about 300 members. The Sunday school, which began with 66 members, now has an enrollment of 235, with 28 teachers, and contributes \$150 a year for missions.

A flourishing Aid Society and Ladies' Missionary Society, and an active Christian Endeavor Society complete the activities of the church.

The present consistory is constituted as follows: Elders—Peter Borst, R. Verseput, Leonard de Pagter, Kryn Buize. Deacons—A. E. Dawley, Peter J. Hoeksema, Martin Koster, Martin Evers.

**Grace Reformed Church.**—This is the youngest of the Reformed Churches in the city, being the Eleventh in order of organization.

This church bears the same relation to the Fifth Church that the Tenth, or Bethany, sustains to the Third.

It was born of the necessity of supplying the younger people of the Fifth Church with stated services in the English language, as many of them could not profit by religious services conducted in the mother tongue.

While regular services began on September 27, 1896, the organization of the church was not effected until February 18, 1897, when thirty-seven (37) members were constituted as Grace Reformed Church.

A very commanding site was chosen on the corner of Caulfield avenue and B street, and a pretty stone structure, capable of accommodating 350 people erected.

During the following year, Rev. J. Vander Erve was called as the first pastor, who remained three years, from 1898 to 1901.

Rev. R. H. Joldersma, who succeeded him, remained only a few months.

In 1902, Rev. P. P. Cheff assumed the pastorate and served the church very acceptably until 1905, when he was succeeded by the present pastor, Rev. P. Braak.

The church has good prospects for growth, as that portion of the city is building up rapidly. The present membership of the church is 130, with a Sunday school of 250 members. The value of the church property is about \$8,500.

The following constitute the consistory: Rev. P. Braak, Pres. Elders—C. Bylinga, R. Weertman, H. Johnson, J. Gaikema, Deacons—R. Vinkemulder, E. J. Zevalkink, H. Ritjema, J. A. Van Zoeren.

#### **The Christian Reformed Churches and Theological School.**

By Rev. Henry Beets.

The Christian Reformed Church in America looks upon Grand Rapids as its stronghold and center. In no other city are its adherents as numerous. Here is its Theological Seminary and College; here are the meeting places of all of its Boards; here is the heart as it were of the entire ecclesiastical body.

The denomination is the result of three secession movements out of the (Dutch) Reformed Church, which took place in 1822, 1857 and 1881. The first one occurred in the states of New Jersey and New York; the last two took place in Michigan. All three gave as reasons for their seceding that the Reformed Church had departed from the old Calvinistic doctrines of the fathers and had become lax in discipline. The secession of 1857 originated in Grand Rapids.

In 1847 and the decade following, a large number of Reformed Hollanders left the Netherlands and settled in Allegan and Ottawa counties, Mich. They took their pastors along and from the beginning had regularly organized congregations, which together formed a Classis or Presbytery, that of Holland. In 1849 these churches united with the Reformed Church of the East, with the understanding and stipulation that, if they should ever find this union to be hurtful to their ecclesiastical welfare they

could bid the main body a fraternal adieu and be by themselves again. This union took place very hastily and without due consultation and preparation. In the last named year a number of Hollanders who had made Grand Rapids their home were organized into a congregation, the Second Reformed Church, g. v.

Some of the people who joined this Grand Rapids society were dissatisfied with the union effected in 1849, as indeed quite a number in Ottawa and Allegan counties had misgivings concerning it.

Mr. Gysbert Haan, formerly a prominent elder in the Secession Church of the Netherlands, became the leading spirit among the dissatisfied. Residence in the East had, as he stated, shown him many shortcomings and erroneous teachings in the denomination with which the Michigan Hollanders had so recently united. In Grand Rapids, which became his home in 1851, Mr. Haan found men of like convictions in John Gelock, Johannes Gezon and Jacobus De Jonge. Early in 1856 the four men mentioned and their adherents ceased to attend the meetings of the second Reformed Church and began to hold religious services of their own, at which sermons of old Dutch divines were read. Sunday fore and afternoons the meeting place was Collins' Hall on Canal street; Sunday evening they assembled in Faneuil Hall, at the southeast corner of Monroe and Market streets. The immediate cause of their withdrawal was the action of the Classis of Holland sustaining the election of an elder of the second church, considered unsound in his faith, and encouraging the circulation of Baxter's "Call to the Unconverted," condemned as Arminian by the Dutch orthodox.

Early in 1857 the seceding element was strengthened very considerably by the step taken by Rev. H. G. Klyn, pastor of the second church, who, together with a large number of followers, left the Reformed Church on Sunday, Jan. 27, 1857, and cast in his lot with the brethren led by Mr. Haan. Very soon afterward this flock was organized as the "Holland Reformed Church," later known as the Spring Street Holland Christian Reformed Church, and at present called

#### **The Commerce Street Christian Reformed Church.**

The first consistory and board of trustees of this congregation was composed of the elders Gysbert Haan, John Gelock and Johannes Gezon, and the deacons Berend DeGraaf, Hen-

drik Moerman and Adrian Pleune.\* Their first pastor, the Rev. H. G. Klijn, ministered to them for the short space of eight months, when the Godfearing but unstable man was prevailed upon to return to the Reformed denomination. But his followers remained and soon after built a frame church on the northwest corner of Ionia and Island streets, costing with grounds and all about \$3,000. The pastorless flock of about fifty families was ably cared for by their elders, all earnest and well indoctrinated men who held regular reading services on Sabbath, and faithfully catechized the young people. Occasionally Rev. K. Van den Bosch of Noordeloos, Mich., who had seceded March 14, 1857, came over to them to preach and administer the sacraments. For half a year a licentiate, Mr. G. Van Tubbergen preached to them, but failed to satisfy. In 1863 Rev. W. H. Van Leeuwen, pursuant to the call of the Grand Rapids church, came from the Netherlands to shepherd the seceders. He served till 1867. During the last named year the congregation, which meanwhile had increased considerably through immigration, built a new brick church on Spring Street, now Commerce St., between Island and Oakes streets. The edifice, still in use, is 110 by 50 feet in size and seated about 1300 persons. Its tower was built in 1888. Rev. Van Leeuwen was succeeded by Rev. R. Duiker, who served from 1867 till 1872. He was followed by Rev. G. E. Boer, who came in 1873 and resigned in 1876 to occupy the chair of professor in the Theol. School of the denomination. (See below).

Rev. J. Kremer was pastor from 1877 to 1879, when he followed the example of his predecessors Klyn and Duiker in joining the Ref. Church. But two years after, in 1881, a new pastor was secured in the Rev. J. H. Vos, who remained with the Commerce St. people longer than all before him combined, viz., until 1900, when he became pastor emeritus. The same year he left, the Rev. T. Van der Ark took his place and filled it until March 26, 1905. Up to the time of writing the pulpit is still vacant. The Commerce St. church at present numbers 165 families, about 330 communicants, a total of 750 souls. Its consistory is composed of the elders H. Drukker, J. Buffenga, W. Hertel, T. Dykstra, M. Boersema, J. Kuiper and J. B. Hulst. The brethren J.

\*In all Chr. Ref. churches, the consistory, composed of elders and deacons, also serves as board of trustees.

Sluyter, Y. Berg, A. Mohr, R. Meyering, G. Harmstra and R. Bolt serve as deacons. The congregation numbers a Dorcas Society, a Young People's Society, two Missionary Societies, and a "Nickel Society," the latter for the support of the Christian School located in a brick building on Williams St. This school at present contains 66 pupils, belonging to the two departments, Dutch and English, into which it is divided.\* The Sabbath School numbers about 125 scholars. All church services are conducted in the Holland language.

**The Coldbrook Christian Reformed Church** is the next oldest of the Chr. Ref. congregations of Grand Rapids. It is located on the southeast corner of Ionia and Legrand streets. It was organized Sept. 25 1875, as the Fourth Reformed Church. The first consistory elected consisted of the elders Adrian De Leeuw and Leendert Silvius and the deacons John Koster and W. Bommelje. Its first house of worship being completed, the new congregation, numbering thirty families, called the Rev. L. J. Hulst of Danforth, Ill., who was installed June 23, 1876. In 1880 the original building was considerably enlarged, 30x40 ft. That same year a strong agitation started in Holland, Mich., against allowing free masons to become or remain churchmembers, many of the Reformed Church in the East belonging to that secret order. In Sept. 1880 the Coldbrook congregation resolved by a large majority vote to memorialize the Classis to which it belonged, concerning this matter. The memorial uttered a strong protest against tolerating free masons in the denomination and stated that unless the General Synod of the Reformed Church should grant a deliverance in accord with their view, they would take steps to sever their church connections.

The General Synod did not do as the memorialists desired and accordingly, on Sept. 8, 1881, the congregation by a very large majority vote separated from the Reformed Church. The next year it joined the denomination to which the Commerce St. church belonged, then known as "Holland Christian Reformed Church."

The Coldbrook people succeeded in retaining their church property and Rev. L. J. Hulst continued to shepherd them faithfully. To this day he is their zealous pastor and teacher, although in the ministry over half a century and having reached the ripe old age of 80, being born in 1825. The present con-

sistory is composed of the elders S. S. Postma, K. Van der Veen, J. Keukelaar, D. Ter Molen, N. Silvius and C. Van Dam, and the deacons W. Huttenga, M. Goudzwaard, H. Schaafsma, J. Hoogerland, P. Westveer and L. Maas.

The church has a flourishing Sabbath school, superintended by N. Silvius. It possesses likewise a Young Men's Society, Young Ladies' Society, Singing School, Dorcas Society and a Society for Christian Education. The congregation also supports a Christian School with 200 pupils and 3 teachers. Both Holland and English is taught in it. The former language is employed exclusively in church services. Statistics, Jan. 1905, 220 families, 415 communicants, 1177 souls. Number of catechism scholars 300; Sabbath school members 250.

**The East Street Christian Reformed Church.**—This congregation is the eldest daughter of the Commerce street church. At present it is the largest Protestant church of the city. In 1873 a number of young men belonging to the Commerce St. church and living in the vicinity of East and Logan streets, organized a Young Men's Society and met regularly in an old barn on Logan street. Soon after a Sabbath school was started in the same locality and a few catechism classes assembled weekly. Early in 1877 the Commerce street consistory erected a building, 40x50 feet, on the present site, the northeast corner of So. East street and Ella Ave. Sept. 15, 1879, eighty families united in forming a new congregation, known as the East Street church. As elders were elected, A. Bisschop, J. Bolt, J. Stelma; as deacons, K. Fongers, H. Vettman and J. Zetsema. The same year a parsonage was built. In 1880 a parochial school was started. In the fall of 1881 the Rev. J. Post, a graduate of the Grand Rapids Theological School, was ordained as the first pastor of the young congregation. He served very successfully until 1887 when he was succeeded (June 27), by Rev. S. B. Sevensma. Under the latter's ministry the present church was built, costing \$6,000. Its seating capacity is nearly 1500. Different revival waves swept over the church during Rev. Sevensma's pastorate which was terminated by his death, May 6, 1900. Sept. 4, 1900, the present pastor, Rev. John Groen, was installed. His labors have been very much blessed so far. The church continues to grow phenomenally. In Jan., 1905, it numbered 390 families, 650 communicants, a total of



1950 souls. Its Sabbath school is attended by 500 children. Nearly double that number belong to various catechetical classes. Its consistory is composed of sixteen members. Its ten elders are: T. Doezema, H. Harmstra, S. Bisschop, J. Hoeksema, S. Bylsma, B. Sevensma, D. Karsies, J. Bos, C. Ryskamp and H. Heemstra; its six deacons are: D. Mendels, A. Lindemulder, A. Van Eerden, R. Baar, L. Haan and H. Slopsema. The church has five societies: of young men, young ladies, men, women, and one for singing purposes. It also boasts of a band. The Christian school of this congregation contains 430 scholars, instructed by 8 teachers. Dutch is taught as a branch study only, but all church services so far are conducted in that language.

**The Alpine Ave. Christian Reformed Church.**—This congregation was organized May 25, 1881, as a second offshoot of the Commerce Street church which had already erected a house of worship 36x62 ft. for its use. About thirty families joined at the organization meeting. The first consistory members were H. Datema, A. Waterloo and B. Schrikkema, elders, and A. Van Bree and A. Hooghuis, deacons.

The first pastor was Rev. W. H. Frieling, installed Nov. 26, 1882. He labored diligently till the spring of 1886 when failing health compelled him to leave his flock which meanwhile had increased from 30 to about 200 families. The chief reason for this marvelous growth was that this congregation was the first and only Holland church on the west side at the time. Sept. 5, 1886, the Rev. P. Ekster, was installed. Soon it became highly necessary to enlarge the church building. A transept of 40x50 ft. was added by Nov., '86. But in the course of time, under Rev. Ekster's successful ministry even this enlarged building, seating 750 people, became too small, and although the Crosby street church (q. v.) was organized as an offshoot in 1889, the quarters continued to be too limited. Accordingly a new edifice was planned. It was built on the old site, the southeast corner of Alpine Ave., and Eleventh street, and dedicated March 17 and 20, 1904. The structure is Romanesque in design and constructed of a red brick face with stone trimmings. It is 75x110 ft. in dimensions, its main audience room, with semi-circular gallery, seating 1100 persons, while an adjoining lecture room seats 200 more auditors. Statis-

ties, Jan. 1905: 270 families, 535 communicants, 500 catechism scholars, 350 Sabbath school members. A total of 1,523 souls. Present consistory members: elders, C. Smitter, H. Hofstra, H. J. Grit, G. Timmer, G. Datema, J. Kloosterman, J. Bylsma, C. Wieland, K. Vander Stoep; deacons: P. Blok, M. DeVogd, J. VanderJagt, J. Ruster, G. Tilma, G. Rodenhuis, D. Postmus, L. Vermaire, J. Van Westenbrugge.

Rev. Ekster preached his farewell sermon Oct. 29, 1905. He was succeeded in December by the present pastor, Rev. S. Volbeda.

The church has one Young Men's Society, a second one of Young Ladies, and a third one for Mission purposes. Besides this there is a Society for Christian Education to which several people of the Crosby street church belong. This organization supports a strong, flourishing Christian school on Alpine Ave., next to the church, numbering 450 scholars and 8 teachers, beside the affiliated school on Crosby street with 100 scholars and 2 teachers. The Alpine Ave. school teaches the eight grades of the public school. Except in the infant classes, English is the teaching medium. Dutch is taught only as a branch although all church meetings still employ that language exclusively.

**The Lagrave Street Christian Reformed Church.**—This is the oldest Chr. Ref. church in the West which uses the American language exclusively in all its religious services. Its originators were members of the Commerce street congregation who were convinced of the great need of an English speaking church to retain their young people, perpetuate Reformed principles and if possible to influence their environs by means of them. The records of the church show that the first meeting on which this matter was discussed formally, was held Sept. 16, 1886. At a subsequent meeting the Rev. J. Y. De Baun, of Hackensack, N. J., was invited to preach to them a few Sabbaths. He came and ministered four Sabbaths to the friends of the cause in Metropolitan Hall on Pearl street, with the result that a petition was circulated, to be handed in at a meeting of the Classis of Grand Rapids, for separate organization. After a great deal of discussion, and under continued opposition from the side of the Commerce street authorities, the petition was granted Feb. 8, 1887. On Feb. 24 the organization took place in Luce's Hall

on Monroe St. B. De Graat and A. T. Welmers were elected as elders and L. Drukker and J. C. Van Heulen as deacons. Seventeen members in full communion joined. Soon after, Luce's Hall was rented for Sunday services for one year and Rev. J. Y. De Baun was called as pastor. He was installed May 15, 1887. Ground was purchased at the southeast corner of Sheldon and Oakes streets, but alas, sold again and in its place two lots were secured on Lagrave street, between Oakes and Cherry streets. One of the houses on them was remodelled to serve as parsonage. Next to it a substantial church building of solid brick was erected. It has a square tower 80 feet high. The edifice was dedicated June 17, 1888. Its auditorium, 48x64 feet, seats 550 persons. Directly connected is a lecture room accommodating 150. The building cost \$12,000. The entire property, including the new parsonage in 1892, erected on the site of the old, called for an expenditure of \$25,000. Under Rev. De Baun's earnest ministry the congregation increased in an encouraging manner. In 1892 one hundred families were reported as belonging to it. But in the year just mentioned the church regretted to see its first and beloved pastor return East, he preaching his farewell sermon March 27.

However, his place was soon taken by Rev. S. I. VanderBeek of Paterson, N. J., who was installed May 8, 1892. He labored successfully at first, but after two or three years the financial panic of the time and other unfortunate circumstances impeded him in his work and he resigned Oct., 1898.

The church was greatly distressed financially but proceeded to call a new minister. On June 4, 1899, the present pastor, Rev. Henry Beets, since 1895 stationed in Sioux Center, Ia., his first charge, was duly installed. Under his leadership the indebtedness has been reduced very much, denominational obligations have been met, and the membership increased considerably, numbering, June, 1905, before the organization of the Burton Heights church (q. v. below), a total of 135 families.

At the end of 1905 the total membership was practically the same again on account of increase from without.

Present consistory members: elders—C. J. Brouwer, H. Daane, G. Hazenberg and J. VanDuinen; deacons, Jas. Benjamins, C. Borrendamme, G. J. Brouwer, and H. Haan. The Sabbath school of 250 scholars, is superintended by Mr. G. J. Haan.

There are 250 catechumens. The church also numbers three Ladies' Aid Societies, one Young People's Society, and one Literary Society.

**The Fifth Ave. Christian Reformed Church.**—Fifth Ave., a little to the west of Grandville Ave., is the location of this congregation. In the summer of 1886 the Commerce Street consistory built a house of worship on this site and held regular Sunday services and catechetical meetings there. The enterprise being successful it was deemed wise to organize the people of the vicinity into a separate church. This was done March 8, 1887. The first elders chosen were: J. W. Ten Haat, W. Van Houw, S. Bos and H. Plesscher; deacons: H. Til, W. Olthuis, R. Gust and J. Groendyk. A parsonage on the adjoining corner was built and soon occupied by the Rev. W. R. Smidt, of Rotterdam, Kan., who was installed Dec. 23, 1888. The congregation increased rapidly under his popular preaching, necessitating the building, first of a gallery and afterward of a transept of 40x36 ft., which was dedicated September, 1889. The seating capacity of the enlarged house of worship at present is 700.

Rev. W. R. Smidt ministered to this church until November, 1902, when he departed for the West. The latter portion of his pastorate had not been as successful as the beginning. The congregation secured a new pastor in Rev. W. D. Vanderwerp, who was installed May 8, 1903. Under his ministry the church flourishes once more.

Statistics, January, 1905, 210 families, 361 members, 375 catechumens, 250 Sabbath school scholars, a total of 950 souls.

The parochial school, to the west of the church, numbers 210 pupils and 4 teachers. The church has five societies, for girls, young ladies, young men, men and women. Present consistory members: H. Bolt, K. Dood, H. Helms, B. De Jong, J. Sherda and D. Wolthuis, elders; K. Boerema, R. D. Bolt, A. Brünsting, W. Horlings, W. Van Korlaar and H. Stap are deacons.

All church services are in the Holland language.

**The Crosby Street Christian Reformed Church.**—This congregation is a daughter of the Alpine avenue church. Its plain 50x60 ft. church building, located on Crosby street, near West street, was erected by it. On May 26, 1889, the people which met in this new house of worship since January, were organized

into a separate and independent church. The first consistory members were: H. Vander Ark, H. Buter and J. W. Dykstra, elders, and J. Loutenbach, J. Mazereuw and D. Bouwman, deacons. The Rev. G. Broene, its first pastor, was installed Oct. 15, 1889, and labored faithfully until May 5, 1904, when a stroke of paralysis incapacitated him. This led to his resignation, August, 1904. His successor is the present pastor, Rev. F. Doezema, installed Jan. 29, 1905. He labors with encouraging results among his flock now numbering 114 families, 150 members, 540 souls. The Holland school, west of the church building, is an annex of the Alpine avenue Christian school, q. v. It numbers 100 scholars instructed by two teachers. Present consistory: Elders, A. Kuiphof, J. W. Dykstra, H. Vander Ark, J. Mol and H. Siborg; deacons, D. Palma, L. Vander Ploeg, D. Van Oosten, T. Nyp and B. Groenleer. Five societies labor in the interests of the church. All services are in the Holland language.

**The Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church.**—The official name of this church is Eighth Chr. Ref., but it is usually known as Oakdale Park church, because located in that suburb, on the southwest corner of Powers and Ohio streets. It was organized May 22, 1890, as an offshoot of the East street church. The first consistory members were: Elders, G. H. Brouwer and R. Mulder; Deacons, A. Jansma and J. Glupker.

Rev. G. D. De Haan, a graduate of the Theol. School, was ordained and installed as the first pastor, September, 1891. He served very successfully till cancer ended his useful life, Aug. 20, 1895. Rev. F. M. Ten Hoor succeeded him, serving from 1896 till 1900, when he assumed the duties of a professorship in the local Seminary. The third pastor was Rev. H. M. Vander Ploeg, April, 1901-Dec. 6, 1903. The building erected in 1890 was blown down by a destructive storm March 24, 1904. But the congregation, far from being disheartened, at once began to erect a larger and better building on the site of the destroyed one.

Meanwhile Rev. L. Berkhof was installed as their pastor, Aug. 14, 1904, in the Theol. School, which served as a meeting place during the building period. On Feb. 8, 1905, the new edifice was dedicated. Its auditorium is 54x85 feet, seating 700 people. There is a steeple at the northeast corner of the building. Statistics for 1905: 197 families, 388 communicants, 980 souls. The church supports a flourishing Christian school with 190 pupils.

There are five societies for men, women, young men, young ladies and boys, besides a singing school and literary club.

The Sabbath school numbers 190 scholars.

Present consistory members: Elders, L. Drukker, S. Borduin, K. Keegstra, T. Niehof, S. Postema, C. Bakker; Deacons, G. J. Rooks, P. Brouwer, K. Warners, A. Jonker, G. Rietberg, J. Diephuis. All meetings are conducted in the Holland language.

**The Grandville Ave. Christian Reformed Church.**—This congregation was organized September, 1891, largely of people belonging to the Fifth Ave. Chr. Ref. church, q. v. Its first elders were: K. Brouwer, J. Stevens, W. De Vries; Deacons, J. Van Dam, T. Kraai and J. Koster. Thirty-eight families joined at the start and soon began negotiations for the purchase of the Universalist church building on Pearl street, between Ottawa and Ionia streets. That house of worship was purchased November, 1891. Of its material a church was built on Clyde Park avenue, close to Grandville avenue. It seated 350 persons. Rev. W. Greve was the first pastor, laboring from 1893 till 1896 when failing health compelled him to resign. He was succeeded by the Rev. E. R. Haan, installed in October, 1896. During his ministry the church building was enlarged with a transept of 40x60 ft., making the seating capacity 700. Death terminated Mr. Haan's useful work Sept. 1, 1898. The Rev. J. W. Brink labored here from 1900 till 1904. The present pastor is the Rev. J. Timmermann, installed June 16, 1905. Statistics for 1905: 205 families, 384 communicants, 1,185 souls. Present consistory members: Elders, E. Hekman, C. Poll, D. Mohr, E. De Vries, W. Olthuis and W. Groen; Deacons, J. Van Dam, H. Lamberts, J. Ritsema, W. Dykema, W. Mulder, P. De Haan. There are societies for young men, young ladies, women and men, besides a missionary society, a singing society and an association for Christian instruction. The latter supports a flourishing school with 310 pupils, housed in a commodious building next to the church. It teaches the 8 grades of the primary school. All church services are in Dutch.

**The Dennis Street Christian Reformed Church.**—This congregation is the second daughter of the East street church. Organized Feb. 6, 1893, it chose as its first elders: T. Doezeema and J. Katsma, and as deacons, R. Bolt and S. Tolk. At first services were held in a store building on Fulton street, near Diamond,

but steps were taken soon to erect a house of worship on lots purchased on the northeast corner of Coade avenue and Dennis streets. The matter was pushed, and July 30, 1893, a spacious church, 95x45 feet, was dedicated. A parsonage was built soon afterward for its first pastor, Rev. E. Vander Vries, 1895-1902. During his ministry the new congregation increased rapidly. He was succeeded April 9, 1903, by the present pastor, the Rev. J. B. Hoekstra, who labors with encouraging results. Five societies are helpful factors in the life of this church.

The Sabbath school numbers 275 scholars; catechumens, 370.

Statistics for 1905: 205 families, 370 communicants, 1,050 souls.

Consistory members: K. Van Wyk, F. De Bei, J. Vanden Berg, T. Smit, K. Koning and A. Bosscher, Elders, and S. Tolk, P. Kuiper, Ph. Breas and E. Veltkamp, Deacons.

A school for Christian instruction was built 1905, corner of Coade avenue and Fuller streets. Opened in September it numbers 200 pupils. The Holland language is taught in the higher grades only as a branch of study, although all religious services in the church are still held in that tongue.

**The Broadway Christian Reformed Church.**—This is the second Chr. Ref. church in Grand Rapids employing the American language in all of its congregational services. It was organized June 26, 1893, mostly of people belonging to the Alpine avenue church. The first consistory members were: Elders, A. Van Bree, M. Goudzwaard and W. Oltmans; Deacons, P. Maris, W. Young and J. De Boer. At first the meetings were held in the Baptist church on Scribner street. But in 1894 a house of worship was erected on Broadway street, between W. Leonard and Eleventh streets. A pastor was secured in Rev. G. D. De Mott, who labored from May, 1895, till May, 1899, when he resigned, his work not being as successful as wished for. The struggling flock of about 45 families remained shepherdless until the fall of 1900, when the present pastor, Rev. M. J. Bosma, just graduated from the Theol. School, was installed.

His work was blessed to such an extent that a larger building was needed. The old one was demolished and on its site a new one erected. It was dedicated Dec. 8, 1904. The building is of Romanesque design, of red brick, costing \$12,000. The seating capacity of the main room is 500. An adjoining lecture room seats 150 persons.

Statistics for 1905: 100 families, 140 communicants, 550 souls, 275 Sabbath school members and 250 catechumens.

There are three societies: a Ladies' Aid, Choral and Young People's Society.

Present consistory members: Elders, T. De Boer, M. Goudzwaard, H. Pleune and A. Van Bree; Deacons, I. De Fouw, M. De Ruiter, J. Luikaart and J. Van Houten.

**The Burton Heights Christian Reformed Church.**—This is the Benjamin of the Grand Rapids Chr. Ref. churches, and completes the dozen. It was organized June 8, 1905, nearly exclusively of members of the Lagrave street church, q. v., and like it American speaking. Its first Sabbath services were held in the Feakin Memorial M. E. church, corner of Griggs avenue and Buchanan street in which the organization also took place. At this meeting J. Formsma and W. J. Heyboer were chosen as Elders and A. J. Vanden Berg and E. J. Smmitter as Deacons. Lots had been purchased beforehand on the corner of Horton avenue and Hazen avenue. On them a temporary house of worship 28x40 ft. was built within three weeks' time. It was dedicated July, 1905.

At the organization 21 members in full communion joined. A Sabbath school was organized June 15 and now numbers 60 scholars. A Ladies' Aid Society assists in bearing the financial burdens of the church. Efforts are now being made to secure a pastor.

**The Theological School of the Chr. Ref. Church.**—On the northeast corner of Madison and Fifth avenues stands a spacious building, of red brick, with stone trimmings, and surrounded by well kept grounds. It is the Theological School of the Chr. Ref. denomination, the only one it possesses. It was built in 1892 at a total cost of about \$25,000. This institution of learning, like many of its kind, had but humble beginnings. During the first years of the existence of the Chr. Ref. Church in the West, its ministers were obtained from the Netherlands. But as early as 1861 the question was discussed of educating young men of its own congregations, and educate them in America. In 1863 the Rev. W. H. Van Leeuwen, then pastor of the Commerce street church, q. v., began the work on a small scale and for a short time. The work was taken up in earnest by the Rev. D. J. Vander Werp (1867-1875). When disease incapacitated



him, the Rev. G. E. Boer, of Commerce street, was chosen as the first regular professor. He was installed March 15, 1876, the natal day of the Grand Rapids Theol. School. The new professor taught his classes, numbering 6 students in all, in one of the rooms of the second story of the Chr. School located on Williams street. In 1883 Rev. G. K. Hemkes was chosen as professor pro tem; in 1884 permanently. In 1888 Prof. G. Vos, Ph.D., began his labors. Systematic theology had been entrusted to him. His work was very excellent and greatly appreciated by the students. Dr. Vos departed for Princeton Seminary, 1893. In 1894 his chair was offered to his uncle, Rev. H. Beuker, D.D., who occupied it creditably till his unexpected death, May 1900. He was succeeded by Rev. F. M. Ten Hoor. (June, 1900.) In 1902 Prof. Boer was declared emeritus and Rev. W. Heyns and Dr. R. Jansen were added to the theological faculty. Meanwhile the literary or college department had been developed considerably. In 1894 Profs. A. J. Rooks and K. Schoolland began to labor exclusively in this department. In 1900 Profs. J. G. Van den Bosch and B. Kuiper were added to the faculty and the literary course was extended to five years and opened to students who aim at other vocations than the ministry. Since then the attendance has increased by leaps and bounds. The "Annuary" for 1904-05 shows 147 students enrolled. The faculty has been increased correspondingly, at present numbering twelve professors. Earnest efforts are made to make the institution a full fledged college as well as a seminary for the education of ministers of the divine Word.

#### Independent Reformed Churches.

Besides its eleven Reformed and twelve Christian Reformed churches, Grand Rapids numbers three independent Reformed churches. They are Holland speaking. Its members prefer separate existence because they consider the denominational churches of their kinsmen not sufficiently orthodox.

The eldest one of this congregation is the **Free Christian Reformed Church**, located No. 202 N. Division street. It was organized Nov. 30, 1870, by the Rev. C. Kloppenburg, just from the Netherlands. It started with 40 charter members. Its first Elders were K. Smit and J. Sinke; Deacons, G. De Graaf and W. Freere. The first pastor died Sept. 6, 1876. He had indi-

cated Mr. C. Vorst as his successor, and he served from Jan. 11, 1877, till April, 1891, when he returned to the Christian Reformed Church, of which he formerly was an earnest advocate.

His successor was the Rev. Vander Spek, called from the Netherlands in 1893. After his death, 9 months afterward, the Rev. Wolbers, also from Holland, served from 1896 until 1905. At present the pulpit is unoccupied, elders leading all services during which sermons of Dutch divines are read. But the Rev. J. Pieneman of Rotterdam, Neths., is expected here shortly to assume the pastorate. The congregation is dwindling in numbers. This latter cannot be said of the second independent Dutch congregation, the **Free Low Dutch Reformed Church**, located 368-370 Turner street. It dates from the year 1876. For eleven years it met in a hall on West Bridge street. From 1883 till October, 1887, Elder M. Donker statedly read the sermons and conducted two Sabbath services. In October, 1887, the Rev. T. Meysters became its first pastor. His preaching added many to their number and the present church building was purchased—formerly a school house. It was opened February, 1888. The congregation was organized Dec. 10, 1887. The church seats about 600 people. Rev. Meysters died in 1891 and was succeeded by Rev. K. Werner, installed July 30, 1893, died October, 1894. The present pastor, Rev. T. Hager, was installed June 4, 1896.

The number of adhering families in 1905 is 250; members, 280; a total of 1,240 souls.

There is no Sabbath school. The old Holland Psalms of P. Dathenus, published in 1566, are still sung by this church. The pastor receives no stated salary, but is supported by free gifts dropped in collection boxes at the doors.

The congregation holds no fellowship whatever with the North Division street church, nor with the third one of the independent Holland churches. This third one is the **Free Holland Reformed Church** worshipping on Clancy street, near Cedar street. It was founded January, 1889, by Rev. J. Vander Broek, who after a checkered career in Europe, South Africa and the East (N. J.), gathered a number of Hollanders around him in Grand Rapids. Finn's Hall was used until the present church could be occupied in June, 1889. It is 60x30 ft., and seats 300 people. The pastor is supported by voluntary contributions. There is no Sabbath school.

**St. Andrew's (Roman Catholic)**, southwest corner of Sheldon and Maple streets.—A Roman Catholic Mission was located by the Rev. Frederic Baraga, in June, 1833, on the west bank of the river. Ere this the Rev. Gabriel Richard and other priests from Detroit had visited the Indian villages of this section, but Father Baraga, Bishop of Marquette from 1853 to 1868, was sent by Bishop Fenwick, of Cincinnati, to establish a permanent mission among the mixed population of that period. It then consisted of the Indian village of the Ottawa tribe, situated about where the L. S. & M. S. round-house now stands, a few trappers, and a score or two of early settlers. The missionary selected a tract of about sixty-five acres on the west bank of Grand River, opposite the head of Island No. 4 (in later maps No. 3), and there erected a frame building for a chapel, and just north of it a small dwelling. Soon after, a building for church uses was secured on the east side. It stood a short distance above the present site of the Barnard House, near Waterloo street. It was a large frame building, with dormer windows, was originally painted with yellow ochre, and figured prominently in the initiatory efforts of religious bodies. This was begun on the west side, moved across on the ice, and transferred to Father Baraga, but remained his only a year, after which services were held in a rude structure which he, with the assistance of some Indians, built on the west side. In the fall of 1834 he was assisted as rector of St. Andrew's parish, established in June, 1833, by the Rev. Andrew Viszoczky—who succeeded him in 1835—a Hungarian, whose eminently useful career was here ended by his death, Jan. 2, 1853, at the age of 55. In 1837 Louis Campau built a church for St. Andrew's parish on the southwest corner of Monroe and Division streets, which was never deeded to the Bishop; yet the congregation worshiped there for some time. Later the pastor and flock were sheltered by the chapel of the Indian village, or a small, red school house on Division street, between Bronson and Bridge streets, or in private dwellings; but in 1847 the Bishop sold for \$4,000 the lands years before granted by the government for the benefit of the mission, and out of this fund Father Viszoczky bought the Richard Godfroy house and grounds on the southeast corner of Monroe and Ottawa streets, now occupied by the Aldrich-Godfrey-White block. The price was \$1,500. There a

stone church was built in 1849 by Robert Hilton, C. B. White, William C. Davidson and Ebenezer Anderson, the cornerstone being laid June 10. The house upon the lot became the priest's residence, and this was destroyed at 3 a. m. Jan. 14, 1850, by a fire that proved most disastrous, for the records of the parish perished in the flames, the unfinished church building, which was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Peter Paul Lefevre, August 11, 1850, was somewhat damaged, and, saddest of all, the aged mother and the sister of Father Kilroy, assistant priest, were consumed with the house, Father Viszoczky and a male servant having saved their lives only by jumping out of the second story. About 1,860 baptisms had been registered in the books thus lost. From that date for several months their worship was conducted in the largest room of Maxime Ringuette's house, later known as the Grand River House, on Waterloo street, and this hospitality generously offered by the owner included a temporary shelter for the rector.

The succession of pastors from that time has been as follows: The Revs. Edward Van Pammel, rector, April, 1853, to June, 1857; F. J. Van Erp, rector, September, 1857, to August, 1859, and associated with him November, 1857, to February, 1858, the Rev. H. Rievers, and January, 1858, to February, 1859, H. Quigley, D. D.; F. X. Pourrot, rector, February, 1859, to July, 1860; Thomas Brady, rector, July, 1860, to January, 1862; Joseph Kindikens, rector, January 17, 1862, to December, 1865; B. J. Wermers, rector, December 27, 1865, to October, 1868; James C. Pulcher, rector, October 6, 1868, to Spring of 1872, when he built and became pastor of St. James' church, on the north side of West Bridge street between Michigan and Cadwell streets. This new parish comprised all the English speaking Catholics on the west side of the river. P. J. McManus, rector, June, 1872, until April 22, 1883, when St. Andrew's became the cathedral of the then consecrated Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids. It appears that the following have also been assistants: Fathers Pierce in 1837; Mills, 1837-'38; Boehm, 1838-'39; Lang, 1839; Kilroy, 1847-'50; DeKuninck, 1850-'53; Montard, 1857-'58. The present Diocese was created May 19, 1882, by brief of Pope Leo XIII., and embraces that part of the Southern Peninsula of Michigan lying north of the south boundaries of Ottawa, Kent,

Montcalm, Gratiot and Saginaw counties, and west of the east boundaries of Saginaw and Bay counties.

The first Bishop of this Diocese is the Right Rev. Joseph Henry Richter, who was promoted to his present office by Papal brief dated January 30, 1883, and consecrated in St. Andrew's Cathedral of this city on April 22 of that year. Father McManus remained at the cathedral until his death from an accident, December 29, 1885. Other assistants at St. Andrew's were the Rev. J. F. Lovett from the fall of 1883 to 1884; the Very Rev. C. J. Roche, October, 1884, to September, 1887, transferred to Essexville, Mich., as pastor. Whilst at the cathedral, he was the first Vicar-General of the diocese, and was its administrator during the Bishop's first visit to Rome in 1885; the Rev. John G. Sanson, March 17, 1886, to February, 1888, when he became pastor of St. Mary's church, West Bay City, Mich.; the Rev. H. Frencken, appointed September, 1887, who took charge of St. Joseph's (Holland) church on Rumsey street, City, on February 10, 1889, and has been its pastor ever since; the Rev. Joseph Benning, appointed in February, 1888, and transferred as pastor St. Mary's church, corner First and Turner streets, Nov. 2, 1893; the Rev. Thomas L. Whalen, appointed June 24, 1884, was made assistant to Rev. Thos. Rafter at St. James' church, Bay City, in the summer of 1890; the Rev. John A. Schmitt, of the American College in Rome, appointed in August, 1889, took temporary charge of St. Mary's church early in June, 1891, and remained there until Nov. 2, 1893, when he replaced Fr. Joseph Benning at the cathedral. Rev. Bernard Goosens, appointed in January, 1889, and transferred to the pastorate of Maple Valley in August, 1889; Rev. Napoleon N. Poulin arrived at the cathedral from the Grand Seminary, Montreal, Can., April 17, 1890, and remained until the Spring of 1892, when he became the first pastor of the church of the Holy Family for the French Catholics in Saginaw. Rev. James Byrne came from St. James' church, Bay City, to replace Fr. Thos. L. Whalen in August, 1890. He became the first resident pastor at Cascade, Kent Co., Nov. 1, 1891, taking charge of Cascade and Bowne, hitherto attended from the cathedral. The Rev. John E. Troy was ordained June 24, 1891, and remained at the cathedral until he became pastor at Hemlock, Mich., March 1, 1896. From April 11 to July 6, 1893, whilst the Rt. Rev. Henry Joseph Richter was on his second trip to Rome, the

Rev. Francis J. Berhorst assisted temporarily at the cathedral and then returned to St. Mary's church, city. Towards the end of October, 1893, the Rev. Timothy O'Connell was appointed and remained until May, 1898, when he was made assistant at St. James' in Bay City. The Rev. Michael J. Gallagher came to the cathedral March 3, 1896. He was appointed the Bishop's Secretary Feb. 15, 1897, and also became chancellor of the diocese in January, 1903. On June 15, 1898, the Rev. Edward Racette came to the cathedral from Big Rapids, Mich., and left on Dec. 22 of the same year to take charge of the church of the Holy Family at Saginaw. Revs. Thomas John Reid and John B. Abel were ordained in the cathedral on Dec. 31, 1898, and remained for six months, after which Fr. Reid became one of the regular assistants and Fr. Abel was sent to Traverse City in the same capacity. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Henry Richter left for his third official visit to Rome Feb. 15, 1900, and returned May 2 of the same year. In his absence, Vicar-General, Very Rev. Joseph Benning, pastor of St. Mary's church, city, was again administrator of the diocese. In August, 1900, Very Rev. Fr. Benning resigned to join the Monks of the Capuchin Order. The Rev. Cornelius Emperor arrived from the Grand Seminary in Montreal, to become the 4th assistant at the cathedral, Jan. 12, 1901. About Sept. 15, 1902, he was sent as assistant to Traverse City with directions to organize a new parish, besides attending to four missions outside of Traverse City. On Dec. 27, 1904, he underwent an operation in Mercy Hospital at Big Rapids, where he died January 7, 1905. He was buried from the Cathedral on Jan. 10, 1905. The Rev. John J. Sheehan came from the American College in Rome towards the end of June, 1903, and remained at the cathedral until September, 1904, when he was transferred to the French parish in Manistee, Mich. He was replaced at the cathedral by the Rev. John J. McAllister, newly ordained, in September, 1904. Fr. McAllister was transferred to Bay City as assistant to Fr. Rafter Sept. 15, 1905, and replaced at the Cathedral by the Rev. John A. Mulvey, newly ordained. The clergy of the Cathedral at present (1905) are: the Rt. Rev. Henry Joseph Richter, D. D., Rev. Michael J. Gallagher, Secretary and Chancellor; Revs. John A. Schmitt, Thomas J. Reid and John A. Mulvey.

The fine church bell was purchased during Father Werner's

incumbency. This bell did excellent service until March 17, 1901, when it was cracked and has since been out of use. In the winter of 1872-3, the grounds on Monroe street were sold to the late Moses V. Aldrich for \$56,000, and the stone of the old church was used for the foundation of the present edifice. Before this Father McManus had begun the erection of the \$15,000 school house opposite the cathedral on the southeast corner of Sheldon and Maple streets, whose chapel on the second floor was blessed by Bishop Borgess, March 27, 1874, when the old church was vacated, and here the services were held until the dedication of the new church by the same Bishop, Dec. 19, 1876. This fine house of worship and its furniture cost \$50,000. It had a seating capacity of 938 in the body of the church and 200 in the gallery. Plans for the church were made by John Grady, of this parish. About 1888 two lots were secured just south of the church, upon which the Episcopal residence, costing \$15,000, was completed in 1889. The aggregate value of this church property, comprising the cathedral, the residence for the clergy, the school and the Sisters' residence, is about \$150,000. In the summer and fall of 1889, hot water heating plants were placed in the church and parochial residence. From time to time large numbers of its parishioners have been dismissed to organize other congregations, leaving St. Andrew's present parish boundaries as follows: All of the city east of Grand River and south of the 5th ward, or Fairbanks street, the north end of the city having been set off in August, 1888, to constitute St. Alphonsus' parish, and yet the mother church retains from 3,500 to 4,000 practical Catholic adults and children. Another new district of the cathedral parish south of Hall street and west of the railroad tracks, has practically been set aside for a new parish. The Rev. Thomas J. Reid is now collecting for the new church school, the ground for which was donated by the late Mrs. Bruno DeBoer. The foundations of a two story brick building 58x76 were begun in October, 1905.

A branch of the Catholic Mutual Benevolent Association, an insurance society for men, had existed in the parish for some years, when in 1896 a branch of the Ladies' Catholic Benevolent Association was started. In this year was also formed St. Joseph's Club for young men, there being already a sodality of the Immaculate Conception for young ladies. A cold stroke of

lightning struck the church steeple on Aug. 23, causing damages to the amount of \$172. Another misfortune befell the church on March 24, 1901, it being struck by lightning, which set fire to it and did considerable damage, the loss being estimated at \$14,873.88. This was covered, however, by insurance. An altar was immediately erected in the parish school hall, where the services were held until July 4, 1903, when the new cathedral was solemnly consecrated by the Most Rev. Henry Moeller, D. D., of Cincinnati. The Most Rev. Diomedede Falconi, D. D., the Apostolic Delegate in Washington, D. C., sang the first pontifical high mass, during which the Most Rev. James Edward Quigley, D. D., of Chicago, preached an eloquent sermon. There were present on this occasion the venerable William Henry Elder, D. D., Archbishop of Cincinnati, 8 bishops and about 65 priests. The Rt. Rev. H. J. Richter, D. D., a delegation of priests, the Hon. Millard M. Palmer, Mayor, the City Council and hundreds of Catholic laymen met the Apostolic delegate at the corner of 6th and Scribner streets and escorted him to the Cathedral residence on Sheldon street, where Bishop Richter and the Mayor made short addresses of welcome.

Soon after the fire preparations were made for rebuilding and enlarging the cathedral, which was completed and furnished by July 4, 1903, at a cost of about \$49,000. In the spring and summer of 1904, the cathedral basement chapel was completed and dedicated October 3, 1904. This incurred an additional expense of \$2,652.25. This chapel can seat about 750 people. On July 18, 1904, the parish acquired 40 feet of ground on S. Division street just south of the Cathedral for the sum of \$2,500.

**The Rt. Rev. Henry Joseph Richter** was born on the 9th of April, 1838, at Neuen Kirchen, in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg. After studying in the local schools and under a private teacher, he came to the United States in 1854, and entered St. Paul's school in Cincinnati in the succeeding year. This was followed by five years of steady application in St. Xavier's, St. Thomas at Bardstown, and Mount St. Mary's College in Cincinnati. He went to Rome in 1860, entering the American College, and, winning his doctor's cap in 1865, was ordained on the 10th of June by Cardinal Patrizi. Returning to Cincinnati in October, he filled the chair of Dogma, Philosophy and Liturgy, in Mount St. Mary's Seminary, and a year later was made Vice-President of that institution. In 1870 he founded the church of



St. Laurence and made it a thriving parish; was Chaplain to the Sisters of Charity at Mount St. Vincent's Academy, and a member of the Archbishop's Council, and one of the Committee of Investigation of the Diocese. When His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII., established the Diocese of Grand Rapids on the 19th of May, 1882, the Rev. Dr. Richter was selected for the new See. He was consecrated and enthroned in St. Andrew's cathedral, Grand Rapids, on the 22d of April, 1883, by the Most Rev. William Henry Elder, archbishop of Cincinnati. At the beginning of his administration Bishop Richter found thirty-six priests, thirty-three churches with resident pastors, and seventeen parochial schools with 2,867 pupils, out of a population of 50,000 Catholics.

At present (1905) there are in his Diocese 774 priests, 80 churches with resident pastors, 90 missions with churches, and 15 chapels. In the city of Grand Rapids, the churches have grown from three to nine and another to be erected within a year. There are now 55 schools and 3 academies for young ladies with 12,376 pupils. At his request, the Franciscan Fathers, the Fathers of the Holy Ghost and of the Most Holy Redeemer, have established houses in the diocese. Various new charitable institutions have been established, substantial churches have been built and are in the course of erection in different parts of the diocese. As a true friend of education, he insists on each parish having a school at the earliest possible opportunity. With this end in view, each new city parish is obliged to begin by erecting a two-story building, so as to furnish both church and school accommodations from the start. Under his direction the following institutions have been started: St. John's Orphan Asylum, Grand Rapids, Holy Childhood's Indian Industrial school at Harbor Springs; a Home for the Aged Poor, Grand Rapids; a House of the Good Shepherd for the reformation of wayward girls and fallen women, Grand Rapids; hospitals at Manistee, Grand Rapids, Bay City and Muskegon. The Catholic population of his diocese in 1905 is about 102,000. Despite this marvelous development of his diocese and the growth of churches, chapels, schools, parochial and teachers' residences, together with various charitable and benevolent institutions, Bishop Richter's motto has always been "Pay as you go along," with the result that the diocese is entirely free of



+ Henry Joseph Richter  
Bishop of Grand Rapids

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debt and is still actively engaged in making more and better improvements.

Having taken part in the Second Provincial Council of Cincinnati, in 1882, as one of the secretaries, he assisted as Bishop at the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore, in 1884. In the spring of 1885 he made his first official visit to Rome, and attended the Provincial Council at Cincinnati in 1889.

Bishop Richter is of a very modest, quiet and retiring disposition. He has always had the reputation of being a very learned and able theologian. A man of principle and energy in the discharge of his duty, he always seeks the most unostentatious manner of performing it. Combining an unusual activity with such high talents, he labors with untiring zeal at the important work entrusted to his care.

**St. Andrew's Cathedral School** is situated on the corner of Sheldon and Maple streets. The two first stories are divided into school rooms and the third is used as a parish hall. The first sisters to teach the school were the Sisters of Mercy who arrived from Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 23, 1873. They were Sisters Mary Joseph, Mary Agnes and Mary Thecla. They began teaching in a barn just east of the school. It had been fitted up temporarily until in Sept., 1874, they moved into the new school house. They taught the school till the end of June, 1877. In August, 1877, St. Mary Inez Kinsella and Sister of Charity of Mount St. Joseph, near Cincinnati, Ohio, replaced the Sisters of Mercy, Big Rapids, who started it, about the year 1873. The house adjoining the school on the south was bought and turned into a residence for the sisters. During the summer of 1891 the school was raised 7 feet to bring the lower floor above the ground. The following summer a steam heating plant was put in. In 1894 the basement rooms were arranged for societies and the third floor was remodeled. During this year the parish also bought a house for \$4,500 from Miss Ellen McManus south of the Sisters' residence on Sheldon street. In 1895 more space being necessary, two temporary rooms were fitted up in the hall. On Feb. 16, 1899, a fire damaged the building to the amount of \$3,665.30. At a parish meeting held on Feb. 19, it was decided to build an addition to consist of a wing of a future new school. The latter part of June, the former Sisters' residence was moved behind the McManus house and the new building was commenced July 12 at a cost of \$18,000. It was ready for

use and dedicated March 7, 1900. In March, 1905, an addition to the Sisters' residence was made at a cost of \$7,500.

These improvements in buildings was necessitated by the growth of the school which has been steady. In 1889 there were 446 pupils and 9 teachers, with Sister M. Huberta, Superioress. Sister Mary Fidelis became Superioress in August, 1890, and was replaced by Sister Maria Louise in August, 1891. In the fall of this year a separate room was opened for the larger boys. In June, 1893, there were 521 pupils, and in August of the same year Sister Mary Annunciata was appointed Superioress. She held this position until the summer of 1900, when Sister Mary Florence succeeded her. Sr. Mary Carlos, the present superioress, succeeded her August, 1905. In 1895 there were 533 pupils and ten teachers. During this year a kindergarten was opened. In 1899 there were 591 pupils; in 1901, 640, and in 1905, 751, with 14 teachers and two instructors in music. For nearly ten years there has been a commercial department comprising all business branches. Besides the 12 grades which are in keeping with the city schools, there is also taught Latin, Greek, French and German. The graduates of the cathedral school have generally given good satisfaction and hold honorable positions.

**St. Mary's Church (Roman Catholic)**, northwest corner of First and Turner streets.—This parish, set off from St. Andrew's in 1856, and formally organized in August, 1857, with thirty-three members. In 1857 a number of lots were bought on First street, between Turner and Broadway, upon which they erected a frame house of worship on the site of the present parsonage. Their first rector was the Rev. Maurice Marco, who came in October, 1857, and remained until July, 1861. His successors until the present time have been: The Revs. Ferdinand Allgayer, from September, 1861, till February, 1864; Laurentius Schreiner, from February, 1864, till April, 1864; Henry Berhorst, from December, 1864, till May, 1870; John George Ehrenstrasser, from June, 1870, to December, 1886; Rev. Joseph Schwick, from 1887 to 1893; from 1893 to 1900, Rev. Joseph M. Benning; in 1900 Rev. Schremb, the present pastor, commenced his labors.

The immigration of Germans to our city was quite large at an early day, and this church became very strong in numbers.

In 1863 it opened its parochial school with eighteen scholars, and in 1873 laid the cornerstone of its large brick edifice, which was consecrated in October, 1874, by the Rt. Rev. Caspar W. Borgess, then Bishop of this Diocese. This house of worship has a seating capacity of 600. In August, 1884, the building of the spire was begun, which was completed during the following winter, and the edifice, furnished, is now valued at \$50,000.

The Rev. Father Ehrenstrasser, who built the present church, in 1882 bought seventeen acres of ground situated on West Leonard street, opposite Greenwood Cemetery, and gave the same to his parish for a cemetery. It was consecrated according to the ritual in April, 1882, under the name of Mt. Calvary, and is now, with its many improvements, and by reason of its natural advantages, a beautiful "God's acre." Here amidst the graves of hundreds of those who loved him, lie the remains of Father Ehrenstrasser, whose death on Dec. 6, 1886, was deeply lamented by his flock, who esteemed and loved him as a good and faithful priest.

**St. Mary's School.**—Aug. 6, 1866, three of the school Sisters of Notre Dame, from Milwaukee, took charge of St. Mary's school at Grand Rapids, and opened with eighty children, which number rapidly increased the first year. The old school building was a small frame structure, situated at the corner of First street and Broadway, and contained three miniature class-rooms. In 1884, the pupils numbered 200, and the old church building was repaired and divided into four class-rooms for the use of the increased number of pupils. But this building proved to be inadequate for the still growing school, and within a few years St. Mary's congregation found it necessary to erect a new school house on Turner street, and this is superior to most of the school buildings in the city, and of it the congregation may well be proud. It contains ten spacious, well ventilated class-rooms, a large hall on the third flat for the use of the pupils, the course of instruction being the same as in the public schools, to-wit: a kindergarten, eight grades and a commercial course.

**St. Joseph's Catholic Church,** No. 29 Rumsey street, Grand Rapids, was organized in 1887, and Rev. Henry Frencken, the present pastor, placed in charge of the congregation. Feb. 10, 1889, the edifice was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Henry Joseph Richter, Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, and the com-

municants at that time numbered about seventy families. The parochial school, conducted in the church building, was opened in September, 1889, the priest's house erected in 1891, and an assembly hall in 1897. Although not the most pretentious church edifice in the city, St. Joseph's is complete and convenient in all its appointments.

Rev. Henry Francken, the devout and earnest pastor of St. Joseph's, was born in Bois le Duc, Holland, March 5, 1860, and has preliminary studies were pursued in his native land, and his theological course was had at the American college at Louvain, Belgium, where he graduated in 1887, was ordained, and the same year came to the United States, and was here at once placed in charge of the congregation of St. Joseph. The sermons and lectures here are delivered in the language of the people of Holland, of which nation the members of the congregation are natives or descendants of natives. Father Frencken has made two visits to Europe since he became pastor of St. Joseph's—first, in 1892, when he passed six months in visiting his parents and in continental travel, and secondly, in 1899, when, in February, he again visited his old home and passed four months in travel, on this occasion visiting Rome, where he had the honor of an audience with the Pope. July 3, he again returned to his beloved flock of St. Joseph's and resumed his pastoral labors, which have been more than ordinarily successful. Father Frencken's parents are still living in Holland, where he has also a brother, who is likewise in the ministry of the Catholic church, and he has also two brothers in the ministry of the church in the United States—Rev. Charles, of Spring Valley, Ill., and Rev. H., of Seattle, Wash.

St. Joseph's school was taught the first year by lay teachers, but the following year the Dominican Sisters took charge, and three of these still conduct the school under the supervision of the pastor. The attendance has increased from forty pupils the first year to one hundred at the present time, and though no language save the English is taught it is called the "Holland" school. The course of study embraces all branches necessary to entrance upon collegiate work.

Assembly hall is used for school entertainments, the meeting of sodalities, etc., and is nicely furnished and arranged for the purposes intended, and is supplied with ample seating capacity. The Altar society numbers seventy-five members, and the C. M.

B. A. branch, No. 74, has a membership of forty. The Sisters' residence was completed in December, 1904. All the buildings adjoin each other on Rumsey street, and the parish is in a most flourishing condition, greatly due to the able ministration and good management of its accomplished pastor.

**St. Peter and Paul Lithuanian Catholic Church**, which is now in course of erection, was commenced in August, 1904, under the direction of Rev. Simon Ponganis, rector of St. Adalbert's Church, the Lithuanians of the city at that time belonging to this parish, Fr. Ponganis himself being of that nationality. Rev. W. V. Matulaitis became their first pastor holding separate services during December, 1904, in St. Adalbert's Church. By Christmas of this year the hall near the church property was ready and used for services until October when they moved into the second story of the new building. The lots for the new building were purchased for the purpose in 1900, permission for building was granted in 1903, the contract was let and the work of construction commenced on the corner of Myrtle and Quarry streets. The building is being made of red brick, two stories high, and when completed, will cost about \$20,000.

**St. Adalbert's Church** was erected in 1881, and the following year it was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. H. J. Richter, D. D., assisted by Rev. O. Vincents Barzynski, of Chicago. In 1880 a meeting was held by the Polish people of this church in the school house of St. Mary's, at which Albert S. Damskey, Anton Stiller and Thomas Kolozinski were commissioned to visit the Rt. Rev. Bishop Borgess, of Detroit, and obtain authority to organize and build a church, its name to be the St. Adalbertus Church. The Episcopal granted approval, the organization was effected with fifty charter members, and they worshiped in St. Mary's Church until the spring of 1882, meanwhile their own edifice was being erected. This was 45x90 feet and capable of seating about 400 at that time, which has since been enlarged with 35x60 feet, doubling the seating capacity in 1887, at a cost of about \$6,000. Its formal consecration took place Jan. 1, 1888, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Richter, of Grand Rapids, conducting the ceremonies, assisted by Father O. V. Barzynski, of Chicago. The new school building adjoins the church yard on the north, and is a handsome stone and brick structure costing \$15,000.



The list of pastors who have served this pulpit is as follows, to-wit: The Revs. T. Casimir Jablonowski, from April, 1883, to February, 1884; Marion Matkowski, February, 1884, to March, 1886; and Simon Ponganis, from 1886 to 1904, when Rev. C. Skory came to the pulpit and is the present pastor.

There are seven benevolent sodalities connected with St. Adalbert's, the chief of which is St. Adalbert's society, building erected at a cost of \$15,000, a large casino, in which their meetings are held and their entertainments given. In 1895 the congregation of St. Adalbert's erected a Sisters' house at a cost of about \$6,000, and together with the church is in a thriving condition.

**St. James' Church (Roman Catholic)**, W. Bridge street, opposite Straight.—The flourishing congregation includes all English speaking families of the Roman Catholic faith on the west side of the river within the city and a part of those in Walker and Tallmadge Townships, numbering about five hundred families.

In 1867 the present site, containing three acres, was purchased by Rev. B. J. Wermers, who was then pastor of St. Andrew's Church. He was soon succeeded by the late Rev. James C. Pulcher who began the erection of the church in 1869. It was designed by William G. Robinson and built by Grady & Smith, contractors. The corner-stone was laid by Rt. Rev. Bishop Borgess, D. D., on July 21, 1870, according to the imposing rites of the Roman Pontifical. The church was opened for services in the fall of 1872, but was not blessed by Bishop Borgess until July 25, 1875; finally, it was solemnly consecrated and set aside forever for the worship of God on September 16, 1902, by Rt. Rev. H. J. Richter, D. D., Bishop of Grand Rapids. This is the second church in order of time to be thus consecrated in the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

The style is Romanesque with Gothic gables and tower and has a seating capacity of 750 persons. The entire cost was \$38,000.

In 1873 the pastoral residence, a two story frame building, was erected on the east side of the church at a cost of \$3,200.00. This building was removed from the old site during 1905 and a handsome, modern brick structure will replace it during 1906. The estimated cost of the new residence is \$9,000.

In 1886 a fine parochial school was built on the west side of the church, capable of accommodating 200 pupils. An addition

doubling the capacity of the school was added during 1896, furnishing, likewise, a fine hall with a seating capacity of 500 persons. The total cost of the school building, which is of solid brick, was \$8,500. A new residence, or convent building, for the teachers of the school was erected in 1888, it being 28x54 feet, two stories high and of solid brick. In 1902 an annex 27x28 was built to the convent. The entire building cost \$6,500.

The whole property of St. James' is free from debt.

The school is taught by nine School Sisters of Notre Dame of Milwaukee, Wis. There are twelve grades taught under the supervision of the pastor. The enrollment averages 350 pupils.

**Rev. James Claude Pulcher**, first pastor of St. James' Church, was born in Jefferson County, N. Y., March 21, 1843. In his early childhood his parents left New York State and settled in the vicinity of Detroit, Mich., where he spent his boyhood days. Feeling himself called to the priesthood, he began his studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary of the West. He then went to the University of Louvain, Belgium, where he successfully completed a philosophical and theological course and was ordained a priest on December 23, 1866. Returning home he was appointed assistant pastor at St. Mary's, Muskegon, where he labored for several months, when he was sent to Grand Rapids to succeed Rev. B. J. Wermers as pastor of St. Andrew's. Always zealous for the welfare of his people he saw the need of a house of worship on the west side and at once began the building of St. James'. In the fall of 1872 he took up his residence on the west side as pastor of the new church. In 1876 Father Pulcher was transferred to the Church of Our Lady of Help, Detroit, and Rev. Gustave Limpens became pastor of St. James'. The health of Father Limpens was seriously impaired and after a lingering illness he died of Bright's Disease on Jan. 25, 1881, and was interred in St. Andrew's Cemetery two days later. Bishop Borgess at once transferred Father Pulcher back to his old charge. He returned on Feb. 5, 1881, and remained its pastor until his death. He labored with untiring energy, as the splendid buildings erected by him testify; nor was he less zealous for the spiritual welfare of his flock. Everybody knew and loved Father Pulcher. He was a man of deep faith, yet broad-minded. Being a man of great integrity he hated meanness under whatever guise it might appear, yet the erring who came to him for advice were sure to find a wise and sympathetic

counsellor. His health being impaired, he went abroad in the fall of 1895 and visited the Holy Land, as well as different countries of Europe, returning home in April, 1896. He resumed his duties of pastor, but it soon became evident that he was not much improved in health. He suffered a slight stroke of paralysis on Sunday evening, Dec. 5, 1897. That day he had preached his last sermon to his beloved people. He was assisted by the priests of St. Andrew's Cathedral until Feb. 7 when he was relieved by Rev. Robert W. Brown. Hoping to regain his lost health he went South for a year, but found no relief. He then retired to Dearborn where he calmly passed away on the evening of August 14, 1898. His remains were brought back to St. James' where the solemn obsequies took place on the 18th of August. Every available space in the church was occupied and hundreds could not gain entrance. The presence of a vast number of clergymen and the deep grief of his personal friends of all classes and creeds, as well as of his own people attested the great love and esteem in which he was held by all.

Father Brown, who had administered the affairs of the parish since Feb., 1898, was now appointed permanent pastor. Under his pastorate the church has continued to progress. He is assisted in caring for the finances by a committee of five representative men of the parish. The present committee are Messrs. James Friar, C. E. Kelly, John F. McCarthy, James A. Rooney and James Campbell.

There are numerous Church Societies: St. James Aid cares for its poor, the C. M. B. A. and the L. C. B. A. are fraternal insurance societies, the Apostleship of Prayer is well organized with about seven hundred members, the Young Ladies' Sodality cares for the young ladies, whilst the Pulcher Club safeguards the morality and sobriety of the young men, the Altar Society provides for the needs of the Sanctuary.

In September, 1902, Rev. John Corbett came from the Diocese of Ogdensburg to assist Father Brown whose duties as pastor had grown too arduous for one man. Father Corbett was appointed Chaplain of the House of the Good Shepherd in December, 1904, and was succeeded by Rev. M. J. Ahern of the Diocese of Richmond on the 19th of January, 1905. In July Father Ahern resigned on account of continued ill health and Rev. E. J. McDonald, a very efficient young priest, was appointed assistant pastor of St. James'.

**St. Isadore's Church.**—In 1897 the congregation of St. Adalbert's Polish Catholic Church became so large and widely separated, that the Rev. Simon Ponganis arranged for the construction of a new building on North Diamond street, to be known as St. Isadore's Church—a house of worship for those of the congregation living on the northeast side of the city, and as a result of his efforts, the building was completed but stood vacant until 1899, when Rev. M. Matkowski, who was formerly located at Posen, Michigan, took charge of the parish, and has since been its only pastor, and at the present time (1905) the building, which cost \$6,000, is used both for divine worship and school purposes; the upper floor is used for the church and the lower is class rooms, which was, until 1904, a residence for the Sisters, until the new building which was erected at a cost of \$4,000 was completed, which is now their home.

Over two hundred families now worship at St. Isadore's. In the early part of the present year, St. Isadore's Casino, a society club house was completed at a cost of \$6,000, which is now being used by its members for social gatherings, and the church of St. Isadore's is now in a flourishing condition.

**St. Alphonsus' (Roman Catholic) Church,** on East Leonard street, between Lafayette street and Coit avenue, was erected in 1888. The parish was created in August of that year, and the Rev. Theodore Lamy was the first priest appointed to the charge, came to the new parish August 21, and one week later was joined by the Rev. Terrence Clarke. The parish includes all the East side, north of Fairbanks street, and within its limits are about 200 Catholic families. The first services of the congregation were held September 2, 1888, in one of the large rooms of the then unfinished orphans' asylum, as the church edifice was as yet incomplete, and afterward in Patrick Finn's hall on Plainfield avenue, and were so continued until the occupancy of the chapel proper a few weeks later. Father Lamy held the charge until 1893, and then Father F. Girardey officiated about one year; then in November, 1894, Rev. Daniel Mullane; following him came Father Joseph Distler, who remained until May, 1898, when Father P. H. Barrett was placed in charge, and in 1904 Rev. George Hild, the present pastor, took charge. The congregation numbers about one thousand, some forty of the families living in the country.

St. Alphonsus' parochial school building, the corner stone of which was laid in October, 1888, is 110x54 feet, and was blessed and occupied January 6, 1889. It has an attendance of about 275 pupils, under the charge of six Dominican sisters, has five rooms and twelve grades — teaching a thorough high school course.

The congregation of St. Alphonsus has reached its present numbers by gradual growth, and under the administration of its present pious and erudite head is destined, beyond a doubt, to develop more rapidly. The priest's house, at No. 165 East Leonard street, is a large frame structure adjoining the school building, was built about 1890.

**Sacred Heart Church** is a branch of the St. Adalbert Church, on 4th and Davis streets. About twenty years ago there came to Grand Rapids some sixty Polish families, some settled on Muskegon street, others in the present 9th Ward. Since the Polish people are deeply religious, they immediately set out to build a church; the settlers on Muskegon street carried the vote to build the church in their midst, yet those of the 9th Ward never forsook the idea of having a church to accommodate them. The St. Adalbert Church soon became too small—the Polish population increased continually, so that to-day they have in Grand Rapids upwards of one thousand families.

In 1903 those of the 9th Ward, principally John Radlicki, Frank Sniatecki, James Pieuta, Andrew Amborski and Joseph Miskiewicz made repeated efforts and sent petitions to their pastor and the Right Rev. Bishop to be allowed to build a new church in the 9th Ward to accommodate them and their children who had a long way to go to attend the Parochial school. These efforts were crowned with success in August, 1903. The Bishop gave his permission to build, and appointed Rev. L. P. Krakowski organizer of the new parish. Under the management of the Rev. L. P. Krakowski, sufficient money was realized to pay \$1,900.00 cash, on October 1, 1903, for a large site on the northeast corner of Park and Valley avenues. It was then decided upon to build a combination building which would answer the purposes of a church, school, sisters' apartments and hall. Mr. C. G. Vierheilg drew the plans; the contract was let in March, 1904, and building was commenced in April, 1904. On "Thanksgiving" day it was solemnly dedicated by the Right

Rev. Bishop Richter, D.D., assisted by numerous delegations of priests and laity from out of the city.

Rev. L. P. Krakowski was appointed the first pastor, who is now serving. In January, 1905, the school opened with an enrollment of 140 children in charge of four Sisters of the Notre Dame Convent, of Milwaukee, Wis., Sister M. Cyrylla in charge.

The building complete cost upwards of \$25,000, and the Sacred Heart congregation numbers 150 Polish families.

**Sacred Heart Academy.**—In 1898 the old Elias Matter place, 132 by 132 on the southwest corner of Fountain and Ransom streets, was purchased by the Sisters of St. Dominic of this city for \$11,500.00. On September 17th, the year following, they opened an academy for girls.

The school comprises four departments: Academic, preparatory, intermediate and primary. Pupils of the primary department are carefully graded into four classes. The intermediate course enlarges upon the work of the primary, and the preparatory gives a thorough foundation for the academic course.

The academic department embraces a period of four years, and offers three courses of study, namely: Classical, English and commercial.

During the spring and summer of 1901 a four-story brick wing of a future modern structure was added on to the old building on the South on Ransom street. It cost unfurnished about \$14,000.00. In January, 1903, the lot adjoining the Academy on the west on Fountain street was acquired for \$3,500.00. The present buildings accommodate about 100 pupils. During the year 1905 Sister Albertina, the first superioress, and ten sisters were in charge of sixty-two boarders and day scholars, not counting the music pupils. From Sept. 1, 1905, Sr. Benedicta has been in charge, her predecessor being transferred to the newly established Academy in Bay City. day scholars, not counting the music pupils.

**The Salvation Army** was organized in Grand Rapids twenty-two years ago, and in that time over six thousand persons have knelt at its altar and claimed conversion—many of whom were social outcasts and some have since united with the different churches of the city. The Salvation Army of Grand Rapids has sent out more men and women as officers, and who are to-day in charge of the work in other cities than any other Army post

in Michigan. There are three branches of the Army in operation here at the present time, viz.: The Spiritual, Industrial and Rescue Home. The Army horse and wagon with its driver dressed in uniform can be seen traveling the streets, stopping at the homes of the rich, collecting their cast-off articles which are brought to the store room where they are repaired and sold for a very small sum. A small charge is made to cover expense of collecting and repairs, so by procuring these articles at a cost of a few cents only, many poor people can, without the loss of self-respect, make themselves and home very comfortable.

The present officers in charge of the Spiritual and Industrial work are Ensign Blanche Heazlitt, assisted by Captain Katie Annach. The Rescue Home is under the direction of Adj. Kate Joyce. About fifty cases pass through the Home each year, and under the management of Adj. Joyce, the capacity of the Home has been doubled, and it is expected many more cases will be reached and benefitted in the future. The girls reached are by no means, all of them, cases that come from homes of poverty; many of them are from good homes, and in some cases, well-to-do parents. Many of the wealthy and happy homes of Grand Rapids have been made so through the efforts of the Salvation Army workers.

**The Volunteers of America** were organized in Grand Rapids in 1896. Since that time they have made steady advancement in lifting up the fallen and helping the poor and needy. Every year at Christmas time they give a Christmas dinner for the poor, and once during each summer season they hold an annual picnic for the poor mothers and children—the expense being all provided for by the officers from donations contributed by the liberal hearted citizens of the city.

The Volunteers were incorporated under the laws of New York. Every department of their work being subject to the provisions of that charter and the constitution and by-laws following the issuance of said charter are made to cover the work and scope of every branch. May the good work go on.

## CHAPTER XLI.

### BENEVOLENT SOCIETIES.

#### **The U. B. A. Hospital.**

The Union Benevolent Association is one of the oldest organizations in the city. On December 16, 1846, the ladies of Grand Rapids met in the Prospect Hill school house, located where now is the northwest corner of Pearl and Ottawa streets, and formed a society for benevolent purposes. At their first meeting Mrs. Charlotte Cuming presided and Mrs. M. E. Church was secretary. A committee consisting of Mrs. Charlotte Cuming, Mrs. W. G. Henry and Mrs. J. C. Nelson was appointed to draft a constitution, which was adopted at their next meeting held on January 5, 1847. The name adopted was The Female Union Charitable Association. The first officers were Mrs. Charlotte Cuming, president; Mrs. W. G. Henry, secretary, and Mrs. Lucinda Shepard, treasurer.

For years the society was simply a union of church workers for organized effort to relieve the sick and afflicted, clothe needy children, and dispense charity among the poor. System and order were among the earliest virtues of the association. The town was divided into districts and two members assigned for visitation and investigation in each district. For years the society met at the houses of its members, and obtained its funds and supplies from collections taken once a year, when all the churches of the town held a union service for the benefit of the association.

In 1858 a corporation was formed known as the Grand Rapids Orphan Asylum Association, but its work was done by the Female Union Charitable Association. Soon after a small house on Prospect street was rented and used by the association in caring for its wards, with Mrs. Lucia Johnson as matron for a time, and then the organization purchased a small house on Lagrave street, which was occupied by the society for about six years.

During the Civil War the regular work of the organization ceased for a time, as all the energies of the people were devoted



to caring for sick and needy soldiers and their families, but after peace came the interest of the society revived and its efforts were renewed. In 1866 its name was changed to the Ladies' Union Benevolent Society. The house on Lagrave street was sold, and in 1869 the large lot at the corner of Lyon street and College avenue was purchased. In 1873 the society was incorporated as the Union Benevolent Association, for the purpose of doing all kinds of benevolent work, and with the privilege of equipping, maintaining and managing a home and hospital for the aged, infirm, sick, and needy. Within two years the Cuming homestead on Bostwick street was purchased, equipped and opened to receive inmates, and was occupied for thirteen years, during which time it was nearly always filled to its utmost capacity. When the home was opened the society was in debt, but in 1878 the entire debt of the society on its building, amounting to more than eight thousand dollars, was paid by the Hon. Thomas D. Gilbert, the treasurer of the association.

The needs and work of the association increased, and on March 25, 1882, it was determined to erect a building on the lot which had been owned for many years by the association at the corner of Lyon street and College avenue. At the annual meeting, held in October of that year, nine thousand five hundred dollars were reported pledged for building. This amount was soon increased to fifteen thousand dollars, when plans were proposed and accepted, and on September 21, 1883, the association advertised for bids on the foundation work. The Hon. Thomas D. Gilbert, William Widdicomb and Mrs. Marion L. Withey were appointed a building committee, and the structure was erected under their supervision. The building was completed in February, 1886, at a cost of \$31,707.32, of which \$28,096.23 was secured before it was finished. While the building was going on a furnishing committee was appointed, and for weeks were actively engaged in soliciting contributions for furnishing the building. The people of Grand Rapids responded most generously and their donations fully and completely equipped the institution. The new home was opened with an informal reception to the public on February 23, 1886.

When the new home was opened the inmates of the old home were immediately transferred, and about a year later the old

home was sold and the proceeds used to diminish the debt of the new home.

In November, 1886, a training school for nurses was established in connection with the U. B. A. Home. A two-years' course was arranged and lectures given by the physicians of the city. In 1889, by the liberality of Hon. Thomas D. Gilbert, a suitable home for the nurses was built on the grounds. The first class was graduated in 1888. The following are the classes of each year:

#### **Graduating Nurses.**

Class of 1888—Lillian Nichols, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Ida Graham, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Nettie Brown, married; Carrie Bucher, married; Louise Engle Corbett, married.

Class of 1889—Margaret Sanderson, deceased; Ellen Webster, not practicing profession.

Class of 1890—Miriam Jacobs, not practicing profession; Edith Brosseau, bookkeeper, Portland, Oregon; Hannah Singer, director in gymnasium, Colorado Springs, Col.

Class of 1891—Ida Haggart, married; Susie Peschmann, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Julia Foote, private nurse, Los Angeles, Cal.; Winifred Dayton, married; Kate Merrill, married; Emma Patton, deceased.

Class of 1892—Katherine Miller, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Henrietta Arnold, head nurse, U. S. Hospital, Manila, P. I.; Ida M. Barrett, superintendent U. B. A. Hospital, Grand Rapids; Ida Van Wormer, deceased; Beulah Grace, married, deceased; Jennie Farnham, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Adele M. Pangler, private nurse, Charlotte, Mich.

Class of 1893—Winifred Sollau, private nurse, Denver, Col.; Fannie Swift, married; Flora Smith, married; Effie Abbott, medical student, Chicago; Alberta Merritt, married; Grace Derby, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Mary Ames, private nurse, Buffalo, N. Y.; Edith Grigg, private nurse, Grand Rapids.

Class of 1894—Mary A. Welsh, instructor in dietetics and matron U. B. A. Hospital, Grand Rapids; Marie Vincent, married; Carrie M. Torrence, private nurse, Charlotte, Mich.; Libbie M. Lines, married; Violet M. Love, married; Helen A. Pemberton, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Nettie Ferguson, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Louise F. Harmer, private nurse, Tacoma, Wash.; Jean G. Lovell, private nurse, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Class of 1895—Addie Schram, married; Jessie McRae, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Madeline R. Allen, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Alta A. Hoke, deceased; Mary J. McKelvey, head nurse, U. S. Hospital, Manila, P. I.; Martha J. Hale, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Louise E. Weekes, head nurse Kings County Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Olive Daley Bassett, married; Emma E. Barr, married; Mary B. Hall, superintendent Olean General Hospital, Olean, New York.

Class of 1896—Mary Fletcher, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Genevieve Fast, superintendent Hospital, Industrial School, Evanston, Ill.; Agnese T. Donald, married; Eva King, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Addie Browne, Palestine, Texas; Carrie Gregory, assistant superintendent Hackley Hospital, Muskegon, Mich.; Violet Benner, superintendent Lidgerwood Hospital, Lidgerwood, North Dakota; Alida Walbrink, married; Clara Dyring, superintendent Hackley Hospital, Muskegon, Mich.; Cynthia Coburn, private nurse, Pasadena, Cal.; Mary Wilson, married; Ata Pelton, not practicing profession; Flora Niemann, district nurse, C. O. S., Grand Rapids.

Class of 1897—Estella Millard, not practicing profession; Rose Geary, superintendent Lockwood Hospital, Petoskey, Mich.; Mary L. Simm, assistant superintendent U. B. A. Hospital, Grand Rapids; Caroline Felt, superintendent National Homeopathic Hospital, Washington, D. C.; Clara German, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Neva Pierce, married; Effie Moore, superintendent Woman's Hospital, Saginaw, Mich.; Christina Bauer, head nurse, U. S. Hospital, Manila, P. I.; Harriett Cramer, married; Myrtle Bryan, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Olive Burr, married; Cora Streng, married; Dena Reidsema, private nurse, Grand Rapids.

Class of 1898—Mary Schermerhorn, assistant superintendent Lockwood Hospital, Petoskey, Mich.; Margaret Goodman, married; Clara Davis, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Barbara Cattanch, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Hattie Shaw, married.

Class of 1899—Nettie Tiffany, married; Emma Van Ostrand, not practicing profession; Minnie Richter, assistant district nurse, C. O. S., Grand Rapids; Alvina Fontaine, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Eva Geary, married; Ella Blashfield, Seattle, Wash.; Maggie Parke, superintendent hospital, Sault Ste. Marie, Can.; Lucile Emery, married; Minnie Kellond, private nurse,

Grand Rapids; Theresa Thelen, not practicing profession; Katherine Macauley, private nurse, Grand Rapids.

Class of 1900—Hannah L. Ackerman, private nurse, Dowagiac, Mich.; Edith A. Mason, married; Adelgonda Ali-Cohen, married; Sarah Elizabeth Gannan, private nurse, Champaign, Ill.; Margaret Charbonneau, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Marietta Zuerner, private nurse, New Castle, Pa.; Clara Josenhans, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Camille W. Grout, superintendent hospital, Calumet, Mich.; Mabel R. Smith, superintendent hospital, Ottawa, Kansas.

Class of 1901—Mary Elizabeth Dunford, not practicing, Alpena, Mich.; Maude I. Bachelor, married; Mary Galenteen, married; Helen Millard, married; Fanny F. Waterman, deceased; Helen A. Farnsworth, superintendent Wichita Hospital, Wichita, Kan.; Katherine A. Arthur, married; Nellie Noordhoff, superintendent Hospital Rehoboth Mission, New Mexico; Flora L. Hart, married; Emma C. Johnson, not practicing profession.

Class of 1902—Stella May Hoffman, in hospital, Houston, Tex.; Frances H. Thompson, in hospital, Houston, Tex.; Marie C. Jacox, superintendent hospital, Temple, Tex.; Helen Graham, married; Adda Ensley Roberts, head nurse hospital, Palestine, Tex.; Nelle I. Sias, surgical nurse and supervisor, U. B. A. Hospital, Grand Rapids; Henrietta M. Hugenholtz, married; Mariea Barendse, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Ora M. Babcock, married; Edyth Young Griggs, First Reserve Hospital, Manila, P. I.; Margaret C. Reno, married; Alice E. Newport, private nurse, Grand Rapids.

Class of 1903.—Mayme H. Rogers, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Mayme E. Sargeant, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Mary A. Doan, deceased; Bessie Goodrich, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Hilma Fosburg, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Emma C. Dowling, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Anna Dyrin, head nurse Eye and Ear Hospital, Boston, Mass; Lois E. Watson, assistant head nurse Eye and Ear Hospital, Boston, Mass.

Class of 1904—Jane Elizabeth Hall, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Josephine M. Sullivan, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Ida Elsie Walker, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Elizabeth Margaret Kuhn, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Anna M. McMahon, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Edith Burke McClure, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Kittie Hart, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Ada Mar-

garet O'Dell, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Wilna Carlton, private nurse, Grand Rapids; Mary B. Paloski, private nurse, Grand Rapids.

Class of 1905—Dena Kuypers, Caroline Stratton, Gertrude Leggett, Aline Piper, Cora Morrall, Ethel M. Rice, Ada L. Hershey, Edna Bailey.

Since its organization the following have been presidents of the association: Mrs. Charlotte Cuming, Mrs. J. M. Nelson, Mrs. J. H. Hollister, Mrs. John Potter, Mrs. E. J. Hammond, Mrs. Cicero Potter, Mrs. J. Morrison, Dr. Charles Sheppard, D. A. Blodgett, Moses Taggart and J. W. Blodgett.

For many years Mrs. Laura Berkey has been secretary of the association. The board and officers as now constituted are as follows:

Board of Trustees—President, Mr. John W. Blodgett; Vice-President, Mr. George G. Whitworth; Secretary, Mrs. Charles H. Berkey; Treasurer, Mr. George E. Luther.

Trustees—Mrs. M. R. Bissell, term expires October, 1906; Mr. John W. Blodgett, term expires October, 1905; Mrs. S. C. Bradfield, term expires October, 1905; Mrs. A. J. Daniels, term expires October, 1905; Mr. William H. Gay, term expires October, 1904; Mr. George Hefferan, term expires October, 1905; Mr. Lee M. Hutchins, term expires October, 1904; Mr. William Judson, term expires October, 1904; Mrs. E. G. Maxwell, term expires October, 1906; Mrs. Daniel McCoy, term expires October, 1906; Mrs. Enos Putnam, term expires October, 1904; Mr. Lester J. Rindge, term expires October, 1904; Mr. C. S. Udell, term expires October, 1906; Mr. George G. Whitworth, term expires October, 1905; Mr. Charles S. Withey, term expires October, 1906.

Honorary Trustees—Mr. N. L. Avery, deceased, elected October, 1898; Mrs. Wealthy M. Morrison, deceased, elected October, 1900; Mrs. Marion L. Withey, elected October, 1900; Mrs. C. V. C. Ganson, elected October, 1902; Mr. James R. Wylie, elected October, 1902.

Committees of Board of Trustees—Finance: Mr. Hefferan, Mrs. Bissell, Mr. Gay. Visiting and Admissions: Mr. Judson, Mr. Gay, Mrs. McCoy. Buildings and Furnishings: Mr. Udell, Mr. Rindge, Mrs. Maxwell. Auditing: Mrs. Daniels, Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Withey. Training School: Mrs. Putnam, Mrs. Bradfield, Mr. Whitworth.

House Officers—Superintendent of Hospital, Principal of Training School, Miss Ida M. Barrett; Assistant Superintendent, Miss Mary L. Simm; Surgical Nurse and Supervisor, Miss Nelle I. Sias; Instructor in Dietetics and Matron, Miss Mary A. Welsh; House Surgeons, Dr. A. Verne Wenger, Dr. Ernest E. Best.

Woman's Auxiliary Board—President, Mrs. Marion L. Withey; Vice-President, Mrs. Daniel McCoy; Secretary, Mrs. Chas. H. Berkey.

Members-at-Large—Mrs. M. L. Bocher, Mrs. D. D. Cody, Mrs. Elmer E. Dennis, Mrs. W. J. Drew, Mrs. N. A. Earle, Mrs. C. Van Cleve Ganson, Mrs. Frances S. Hillyer, M. D., Mrs. Geo. P. Hummer, Mrs. S. B. Jenks, Mrs. Frank Jewell, Mrs. Elliott Judd, Mrs. M. E. Lewis, Mrs. Claude Lockwood, Mrs. J. H. McKee, Mrs. Constantine Morton, Mrs. Chauncey Pelton, Mrs. Frances A. Rutherford, M. D., Mrs. W. C. Sheppard, Mrs. William Alden Smith, Mrs. Dudley E. Waters, Mrs. O. R. Wilmarth.

Park Congregational Church—Mrs. E. E. Cole, Mrs. Silas F. Godfrey, Mrs. Thomas Hefferan, Mrs. N. Fred Avery, Mrs. William Judson, Mrs. J. D. M. Shirts, Mrs. George Hefferan.

Division Street Methodist Church—Mrs. E. H. Foote, Mrs. William Fuller, Mrs. N. W. Mather, Mrs. N. W. Northrop, Mrs. William A. Phelps.

Fountain Street Baptist Church—Miss Louise Davidson, Mrs. J. M. Dudley, Mrs. E. G. Maxwell, Mrs. Frank E. Leonard, Mrs. Ellen Wilson, Mrs. M. S. Keeler, Mrs. John Hoult.

Westminster Presbyterian Church—Mrs. Henry Idema, Mrs. Moses Taggart, Mrs. S. W. McKee, Mrs. Wm. B. Baker, Mrs. Edwin Owen, Mrs. J. R. Wylie.

Grace Episcopal Church—Mrs. William H. Jones, Mrs. Edgar W. Hunting, Mrs. Jacob Kleinhans.

All Souls Church—Mrs. O. E. Brown, Mrs. R. C. Luce, Mrs. William A. Rawson.

Church of Christ—Mrs. Charles M. Camburn, Mrs. M. C. Sinclair, Mrs. Walter C. Winchester.

Temple Emanuel—Mrs. A. M. Amberg, Mrs. Joseph Houseman, Mrs. Morris Heyman, Mrs. Henry Houseman.

Wealthy Avenue Baptist Church—Mrs. S. E. Curdy, Mrs. Edith Curtis.

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Second Baptist Church—Mrs. R. A. McWilliams, Mrs. F. E. Brown.

First Reformed Church—Mrs. J. A. S. Verdier, Mrs. D. Schram, Mrs. Edward Frick, Mrs. W. H. Van Leeuwen.

Second Street Methodist Church—Mrs. Thomas Cox, Mrs. Don I. McAfee, Mrs. John Widdicomb.

Trinity Methodist Church—Mrs. Paul H. Richens, Mrs. Elizabeth Avery.

First Presbyterian Church—Mrs. Alfred Richards.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church—Mrs. Frank A. Voigt, Mrs. George E. Luther, Mrs. Eugene C. Goodrich.

Non-resident—Mrs. Charles Bradford, Walker; Mrs. Charles W. Carman, Chicago; Mrs. N. D. Carpenter, Detroit.

Committees of the Woman's Auxiliary Board—House: Two members, changed monthly. Auditing. Mrs. McWilliams, Mrs. Sheppard. Training School: Dr. Rutherford, Mrs. Dudley, Dr. Hillyer, Mrs. Idema, Mrs. Withey, ex-officio.

#### Medical Staff.

Medical Board—President and Chief of Staff, Dr. Joseph B. Griswold; Vice-President, Dr. O. E. Herrick; Secretary, Dr. A. Verne Wenger.

Medical Division—Consulting Physicians: J. B. Griswold, M. D.; J. O. Edie, M. D.; D. S. Sinclair, M. D.; P. B. Wright, M. D. Visiting: Earl Bigham, M. D.; J. W. Riecke, M. D.; F. J. Lee, M. D.; L. E. Best, M. D.; S. D. Hinman, M. D.; Maria Norris, M. D.; J. M. DeKraker, M. D.; S. Porter Tuttle, M. D.

Surgical—Consulting Surgeons: William Fuller, M. D.; J. B. Griswold, M. D.; S. C. Graves, M. D. Visiting: S. C. Graves, M. D.; M. E. Roberts, M. D.; Walter Ardiel, M. D.; William Fuller, M. D.; William J. DuBois, M. D.; W. G. Young, M. D.

Gynecological—Consulting Gynecologists: J. B. Griswold, M. D.; M. C. Sinclair, M. D.; O. E. Herrick, M. D.; S. C. Graves, M. D. Visiting: F. A. Rutherford, M. D.; W. F. Hake, M. D.; T. C. Irwin, M. D.; William Fuller, M. D.; O. E. Herrick, M. D.; F. E. Berge, M. D.

Abdominal Surgery—William Fuller, M. D.; O. E. Herrick, M. D.; S. C. Graves, M. D.

Obstetrical—Consulting Obstetricians: J. B. Griswold, M. D.;

*Mrs. What-So-Ever*

O. L. Dales, M. D. Visiting: F. A. Rutherford, M. D.; Earl Bigham, M. D.; C. H. Bufl, M. D.; A. H. Williams, M. D.

Ophthalmological and Otological—L. A. Roller, M. D.; John R. Rogers, M. D.; F. Dunbar Robertson, M. D.

Bacteriologists—Alexander Mackenzie Campbell, M. D.; Charles C. Wallin, M. D.

Pathologist—George H. Baert, M. D.

What-So-Ever Circle of King's Daughters—President, Miss Laura S. Perry; Vice-President, Miss Elizabeth Herkner; Secretary and Treasurer, Miss Julia Pike. Members: Miss Mary Bonnell, Miss Lulu Berkey, Miss Estelle Putman, Miss Kate Enos, Miss Eva Daniels, Miss Clara Limbert, Miss May Fitzgerald, Miss Elizabeth Mowat, Miss Nellie Campbell, Miss Elvira Boltwood, Miss Fanny Boltwood, Miss Elizabeth Goodrich, Miss Adele Levi, Miss Edith E. Clark, Mrs. William H. Gay, Mrs. Ralph Rickenbaugh, Mrs. Rosalie Rickenbaugh, Mrs. Willard F. Keeney, Mrs. E. Burton Newell.

Needlework Guild—President, Mrs. William F. Blake; Vice-President, Mrs. Enos Putman; Secretary, Mrs. S. D. Hinman; Treasurer, Mrs. Oscar Palmer. Leaders of Sections: 1, Mrs. J. C. Buchanan; 2, Mrs. Lyman W. Welch; 3, Mrs. Daniel McCoy; 4, Mrs. George R. Allen; 5, Mrs. William F. Blake; 6, Mrs. Alice E. Amsden; 7, Mrs. Arthur T. Slaght; 8, Mrs. Charles W. Jones; 9, Mrs. Charles H. Berkey; 10, Mrs. William Fuller; 11, Mrs. M. L. Bocher; 12, Mrs. J. W. Closterhouse; 13, Mrs. C. Morton; 14, Mrs. Frank E. Leonard; 15, Mrs. A. D. Crane; 16, Mrs. Henry Idema; 17, Mrs. S. W. McKee; 18, Mrs. Walter C. Winchester; 19, Mrs. J. E. Austin; 20, Mrs. William H. Jones; 21, Mrs. Agnes R. Moulton; 22, Mrs. Edwin Owen; 23, Mrs. O. L. Dale.

The expenses of the association are nearly twenty-five thousand dollars a year, and at present the association is practically self sustaining. The sources of revenue are hospital earnings, donations and income from trust funds. The association has a trust endowment fund amounting to something more than twenty-three thousand dollars.

The matrons have been Mrs. Worth, Mrs. Mary A. Manning, Mrs. L. J. Chase, Mrs. H. S. Kellogg and Miss Ida M. Barrett.

The hospital with its furniture and fixtures is worth about \$66,000, and its business is in a satisfactory condition. For



several years the best business men of the city have been on the board and the association has gratuitously had the benefit of most excellent administration by business men of the highest ability in its policies and methods of financial and executive management. The time and attention given to its management could not have been obtained for pay for a less amount than the entire cost of its management. Patrons of the U. B. A. Home have received the best and most for their money that could be obtained. The officers and trustees of the association have taken time from their own business and given aid and attention to the hospital that has accomplished wonders in reducing expenses, increasing efficiency, and obtaining results. No institution in the city is better cared for than is the U. B. A. and its benefits belong to the public.

Hospital day has become an institution of the city. Once a year the public is called upon for a day to give to the hospitals of the city, and the responses have been generous.

#### **Butterworth Hospital.**

Butterworth Hospital is the successor of St. Mark's Home and Hospital which for many years was conducted under the auspices of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. January 1, 1873, the church authorities established a "Church Home," and by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Fuller were given the use of a frame house at No. 60 Kent street, where six sick and aged members were accommodated during the first year. Demands and needs increased, and in 1876 Mr. and Mrs. Fuller donated to the trustees of St. Mark's the use of a large building on Island street which was occupied as a home and hospital for fourteen years. June 26, 1877, "St. Mark's Home and Hospital" became incorporated, and ever since the institution has been conducted as an incorporated body to furnish a home and hospital for the sick and needy, irrespective of sect and creed, and to relieve the necessities of persons requiring any assistance by any charitable means that may seem proper, and to educate and train nurses for the care of the sick. Mrs. H. W. Hinsdale, President; Mrs. E. P. Fuller, Vice-President; Miss Louise Miller, Secretary and Treasurer; Mrs. Charlotte Cuming, Mrs. John McConnell, Mrs. P. R. L. Peirce, Mrs. James H.

McKee, and Mrs. George Kendall constituted the first board of trustees.

November 28, 1887, the board of directors received a letter from Richard E. E. Butterworth offering to donate the association a site for a hospital at the southwest corner of East Bridge and Bostock streets, valued at \$15,000. The offer was accepted. January 6, 1888, Mr. Butterworth died, and by the terms of his will gave to the association the site mentioned, \$15,000 in cash and a block on Canal street valued at \$15,000; so that his entire gifts to the association amounted to \$41,500. Ground was broken for the new building on August 10, 1888. On Sunday, March 24, 1889, after regular morning services at St. Mark's church, the entire congregation went in a body to the site of the hospital, and the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, Dr. Fair pronouncing the benediction. On St. Mark's day, April 26, 1890, the present hospital building was completed and opened with a public reception and dedicatory exercises conducted by Rev. Dr. Campbell Fair, assisted by Rev. Peter Moerdyke, Rev. Dr. S. H. Cobb, Rev. A. R. Merriam, and Rev. Dr. Knapp. Prayer was offered by Bishop Gillespie.

In the walls of the building is a marble slab about five by three feet in size which words the grateful remembrance of Richard Edward Emerson Butterworth, by whose benevolence the building was erected. There are also life-sized portraits of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Fuller, by whose fostering care the institution was established and promoted.

At the opening of the building there were rooms furnished by the following philanthropic citizens of Grand Rapids: Mrs. S. L. Fuller, Mrs. Francis Letellier, Mrs. E. P. Fuller, Berkey & Gay Company, Mr. C. W. Wright, Mr. Henry Ives, Mr. A. E. Worden, Mrs. W. F. Bulkley, Mrs. Joseph Penney, Helping Hand Society, Mrs. A. J. Brown, Mrs. M. A. Tinkham, Mrs. Arthur Meigs, Mrs. J. H. Wonderly, Mrs. J. Boyd Pantlind

The building is one hundred and forty-eight feet long by eighty-four feet deep, three stories high, made of Ohio and pressed brick, with Lake Superior and sandstone trimmings, slate roof. It was erected under the supervision of C. W. Davidson. Its total cost was \$47,088.42.

On January 25, 1894, the name of the institution was changed

to that of its chief patron and it has since been called "Butterworth Hospital."

It has a high and commanding position, which affords a fine view of the city and Grand River valley. In consequence of its elevated position its drainage is perfect. Exposed to the breeze from every quarter, the air is pure and fresh at all times. It is heated by steam and lighted by both electricity and gas. Each room is provided with an electric call bell by which attendance can be summoned at any moment. There are four general wards and eighteen private rooms furnished with every modern convenience. There is an operating room, dispensary, and all the accommodations of a first class hospital. The institution is open to the suffering of all classes, without regard to religion, sex or color. Persons suffering from accident and serious illness are admitted at any hour of the day and night. It has four free beds. All cases of accident, and diseases, except those which are incurable and contagious, are treated. The association is out of debt. During the past year its total income was \$31,345.51, and it paid off a bonded indebtedness of \$9,000 and interest and its total expense \$22,580.84. Seven hundred and fifty-eight patients were treated during the year past. The following constitutes the present officers and physicians of the institution:

Board of Trustees—George K. Johnson, term expires April 25, 1905; Philo C. Fuller, term expires April 25, 1905; Rev. J. N. McCormick, term expires April 25, 1905; Willard Barnhart, term expires April 25, 1906; J. Boyd Pantlind, term expires April 25, 1906; Claude Hamilton, term expires April 25, 1906; Harvey J. Hollister, term expires April 25, 1907; Edward Lowe, term expires April 25, 1907; Henry Idema, term expires April 25, 1908; Howard A. Thornton, term expires April 25, 1908; J. Edward Earle, term expires April 25, 1908.

Officers of Board of Trustees—President, Edward Lowe; Vice-President, J. Edward Earle; Treasurer, Harvey J. Hollister; Secretary, Claude Hamilton.

Executive Committee—J. Boyd Pantlind, Philo C. Fuller, Harvey J. Hollister, Claude Hamilton, Edward Lowe.

Board of Managers—Mrs. Wm. H. Anderson, Mrs. Roy S. Barnhart, Mrs. Charles H. Bender, Mrs. Eugene Boise, Mrs. J. Edward Earle, Mrs. Campbell Fair, Mrs. Charles Fox, Mrs. F. A.

Gorham, Mrs. Charles S. Hazeltine, Mrs. Charles E. Hooker, Mrs. Wm. Oden Hughart, Jr., Mrs. Collins H. Johnston, Mrs. Joseph Kortlander, Mrs. Daniel McCoy, Mrs. J. Boyd Pantlind, Mrs. Charles H. Perkins, Mrs. Cyrus E. Perkins, Mrs. Geo. Raymond, Mrs. Huntley Russell, Mrs. Stephen A. Sears, Mrs. Wm. R. Shelby, Mrs. Albert Stickley, Mrs. T. W. Strahan, Mrs. Richard R. Smith, Mrs. Bertha K. Witherbee, Mrs. J. H. Wonderly, Miss Katherine O'Brien.

Officers of Board of Managers—President, Mrs. Eugene Boise; First Vice-President, Mrs. J. Edward Earle; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Charles Fox; Third Vice-President, Mrs. J. Boyd Pantlind; Secretary, Mrs. Huntley Russell; Treasurer, Mrs. F. A. Gorham; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Charles H. Perkins.

Training School Committee—Mrs. T. W. Strahan, Chairman; Mrs. Joseph Kortlander, Miss Elizabeth G. Flaws, ex-officio, Mrs. Charles H. Perkins.

Kendall Home Committee—Mrs. Chas. H. Perkins, Chairman; Mrs. Joseph Kortlander.

House Supply Committee—Mrs. Albert Stickley, Chairman; Mrs. Charles Fox, Mrs. W. O. Hughart, Jr., Mrs. J. H. Wonderly, Mrs. J. Boyd Pantlind, Mrs. Wm. H. Anderson, Mrs. W. R. Shelby, Miss Katherine O'Brien.

Housekeeping Committee—Mrs. Charles H. Bender, Mrs. Richard R. Smith, Mrs. Bertha Witherbee, Mrs. Roy S. Barnhart.

Surgical and Hospital Committee—Mrs. F. A. Gorham, Chairman; Mrs. Richard R. Smith.

Publishing and Advertising Committee—Mrs. Cyrus E. Perkins.

Entertainment Committee—Mrs. Charles S. Hazeltine, Chairman.

House Officers—Superintendent of Hospital, Elizabeth G. Flaws; Assistant Superintendent, Isabel S. Fairchild; Night Supervisor, Fannie McLeod; Instructor of Diet Kitchen and Supervisor of Cooking, Elizabeth C. Carroll; Bookkeeper, Cora E. Barber; Surgical Nurse, Mary L. Stratton; Resident House Physician, F. N. Pritchard.

#### **Medical Staff.**

Dr. George K. Johnson, Honorary Chief of Staff; Dr. Eugene Boise, Chief of Staff.

Medicine—Visiting Physicians: Joseph Albright, Ralph Apted, Alexander M. Campbell, Elizabeth Earle, William Hake, J. B. Hilliker, Clarence White, Henry Hulst, Collins H. Johnston, C. E. Koon, T. M. Koon, John A. McColl, T. W. Toan, J. B. Whinery. Consulting Physicians: George K. Johnson, Eugene Boise.

Surgery—Visiting Surgeons: J. Orton Edie, R. J. Hutchinson, G. L. McBride, Perry Schurtz, Richard R. Smith, Ralph H. Spencer, Rowland Webb, W. G. Young. Consulting Surgeons: George K. Johnson, Samuel R. Wooster.

Gynecology—R. J. Hutchinson, Perry Schurtz, Richard R. Smith, W. G. Young.

Diseases of Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat—Visiting Physicians: R. J. Kirkland, John R. Rogers, Louis A. Roller, E. W. Tolley. Consulting Physician: D. Emmett Welsh.

Obstetrics—Ralph Apted, H. W. Howard, Elizabeth Earle.

Dermatology—Charles E. Hooker.

Diseases of Children—Henry W. Howard, Collins H. Johnston.

Pathology—Joseph B. Whinery.

X-Ray—Henry Hulst.

House Physician—Frederick Pritchard.

After the hospital was opened, great inconvenience and expense was experienced by the management in caring for the nurses, which resulted in a rich donation to the institution from the heirs of George Kendall, who died in October, 1890. Mr. Kendall had long been a faithful and devoted parishioner of St. Mark's, and his children, Mrs. J. Edward Earle, Mrs. David R. Breed, Mrs. John J. Shields and George T. Kendall, as a remembrance of his interest in church affairs, gave to the institution the Kendall Home, which is a building erected at a cost of over \$7,000 on grounds adjoining the hospital, and affords a home for the nurses of Butterworth and also a training school for nurses. The building was paid for by funds from the Kendall estate and was completed in 1892. The first class from the training school for nurses was graduated in 1893 and consisted of seven members. The following are the graduates:

#### **Graduate Nurses.**

Class of 1893—Miss E. H. Knapp, retired, Hillsdale, Mich.; Miss Luda Konkle, army nursing, Philippines; Miss E. Bros-

seau, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss E. Packer, private work; Miss F. Bohn, private work, Chicago, Ill.; Miss C. M. Sturderant, married, Battle Creek, Mich.; Miss Jessie Crichton, private work, St. Johns, Mich.

Class of 1894—Miss Agnes Jamison, private work, New York City; Miss Georgia File, married, Canada; Miss Ruth Handy, private work, Hastings, Mich.; Miss Margaret Dooley, dead; Miss Ruby Hathaway, surgical nurse, Orange, N. J.; Miss Elizabeth Wooster, married, Ohio; Miss Agnes Daw, private work, Chicago, Ill.

Class of 1895—Miss W. Hutchinson, at home, Traverse City, Mich.; Miss Isabel Barr, married, Georgia; Miss Mary Johnston, private work, New York City; Miss Florence Gilchrist, dead; Miss Katherine Booth; Miss Anna M. Gunn, married. Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Susan Hewitt, private work, Orange, N. J.

Class of 1896—Miss Rowena Raymond, at home, Canada; Miss Mary Goldie, private work, New York City; Miss Elna Byork, physician, Michigan.

Class of 1897—Miss Addie E. Deutsch, married, Toledo, Ohio; Miss Mary Baldwin, married, Cleveland, Ohio; Miss Mary Chrichton, married; Miss Anna Schwender, married; Miss Eva Amas, at home, Toronto, Canada; Miss Carrie McDowell, hospital, London, England; Miss Mary Mingane, private work, New York City; Miss Gertrude Lyle, private work, Grand Rapids; Miss Inez Mosher, private work, Grand Rapids; Miss Anna Burlingame, at home, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Miss Eleanor Lason, U. S. Army Corp.; Miss Elizabeth DePree, married; Miss Maria Harley, private work, New York.

Class of 1898—Miss Pearl Bellows, married, Byron Center, Mich.; Miss Ida Richards, private work, New York City; Miss Josephine Foster, Bass River, Mich.; Miss Lulu Cudney, private work, Grand Rapids; Miss Helen Hutchins, married, Toronto, Canada; Miss Isabel Fairechild, assistant superintendent, Butterworth Hospital; Miss Mabel Morehouse, private work, Grand Rapids; Miss Alice Newton, superintendent, Norfolk, Va.

Class of 1899—Miss Ethel Alexander, married, Pomona, Mich.; Miss T. Wilkkinson, private work, Houghton, Mich.; Miss Mary Burgess, assistant superintendent, Liberty, N. Y.; Miss Violet Whitman, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Bessie Wil-

liamson, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Jean Elliott, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Emma Himmler, private work, New York City.

Class of 1900—Miss Endora Brown, married, Portland, Ore.; Miss Eva Rockwell, private work, Petoskey, Mich.; Miss Emma Miller, private work, New York; Miss Kate Gifford, hourly nursing, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Class of 1901—Miss Vine Gifford, hourly nursing, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Bertha Stauffer, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss E. J. Rowland; Miss Mary Crosby, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Mabel Jones, U. S. Army Corps; Miss Ella J. Smith, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Agnes Elliott, married, Manistee, Mich.

Class of 1902—Miss Clara Hogle, married, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Nellie Hall, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss May Wylie, married; Miss Kate Innes, at home, Michigan; Miss Hilda Schull, married, Holland, Mich.; Miss Cora Warren, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Class of 1903—Miss Rebecca Hunt; Miss Lucy Breen, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Irma Bechtold, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Mae McIntyre, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Rose De Merse, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Alice DePree, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Nona Michael, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Mamie Moerdyke, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Class of 1904—Miss Abbie Stone, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Mary Sutherland, private work, Shelby, Mich.; Miss Marie Gaiser, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Florence Launt, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Mary Plowman, private work, Copemish, Mich.; Miss Minnie Jenkins, private work, Traverse City, Mich.; Miss Sarah Halsey, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss May VanDommelen, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Louise Shuler, private work, Traverse City, Mich.; Miss Helen Duncombe, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Class of 1905—Miss Katherine Currie, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Mary Marshall, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Luella Bockstahler, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Jeannette Boer, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Miss Beatrice Graham, private work, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Since the opening of the school the graduates have done good work and carried the practical results of the Kendall Home into every quarter of the earth. The school course is two and one-half years. Suffering humanity has reason to thank the philanthropy of Richard E. Butterworth, George Kendall, Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Fuller, and a host of other members of St. Mark's Church, whose thoughtful, energetic methods have brought aid and comfort to many distressed bodies and souls.

**St. Mary's Hospital.**

145 South Lafayette Street.

The late Mrs. Mary McNamara became the founder of St. Mary's Hospital by donating her old home at 145 South Lafayette street to the Sisters of Mercy, who now also conduct hospitals at Big Rapids, Manistee, Bay City and Muskegon. Three sisters with Sr. Mary Ignatius at the head arrived from Big Rapids and took possession August 17th, 1893. The McNamara residence was at once remodeled for hospital purposes—another small house from Mrs. McNamara's property on Sheldon and Maple streets being also moved to the rear and connected with it. During the first year 74 patients were cared for. In August, 1894, Sr. Mary Ignatius was succeeded as superioress by Sr. Mary Philomena, who again was replaced by Sr. Mary Josephine August 2d, 1897, who remained until August 14th, 1903. The present incumbent, Sr. Mary Bernardine, has had charge ever since. In June, 1898, a three-story frame addition with four sick rooms on each floor was begun. It was completed by the end of October of the same year. The building, which was equipped with an elevator, a steam plant and sanitary plumbing, cost about \$8,000. In 1900 another addition was made in the rear, consisting of an amphitheatre connected with an operating room on the first floor, a drug room, a dormitory for nurses on the second floor and a dining room in the basement. This improvement cost about \$2,000. On January 7th, 1903, the old Coffinberry home adjoining the hospital on the south was bought for \$3,500, and in the early spring of 1905 the Smiley residence at the southwest corner of Cherry and South Lafayette streets was acquired for \$10,000 which serves as a lodge for the sisters and nurses.



The hospital has a training school for nurses conducted along the usual up-to-date methods. At present, July, 1905, there are six Sisters of Mercy and ten nurses employed. According to the last printed report there were from August 17th, 1900, to August 17th, 1902, 686 patients in the hospital. Of these 317 were Catholics, 354 Protestants of various denominations, 3 Hebrews and 22 without any religion; 362 paid full rates, 229 paid only a part of the regular rates and 95 were cared for free of charge. Since the above report was printed still more patients have been cared for annually, as more room was obtained. In fact, the hospital has been generally crowded to its full capacity and many patients have had to be refused for want of space.

#### **Charity Organization Society.**

In the winter of 1892-93 there were rumors of financial panic. Business became somewhat demoralized and many men were thrown out of employment. There was much distress in the city and all benevolent organizations were taxed to their utmost capacity. In February, 1893, a circular was issued asking all persons interested in the organization of all local charitable societies to correspond with the signers, Thomas D. Gilbert and J. W. Rosenthal. Five hundred responses were received expressing interest in the movement. In March a public meeting, was held in Powers Opera House, at which a committee consisting of T. D. Gilbert, J. W. Rosenthal, H. J. Hollister, A. O. Crozier and L. S. Provin was appointed to draft a constitution for a society to be known as the Charity Organization Society of Grand Rapids. On April 11 a meeting was held at the Park Street Congregational Church, to which the committee made its report, setting forth the objects of the proposed organization. It was adopted and is as follows:

The objects are:

1. To reduce vagrancy and pauperism and ascertain their true causes.
2. To prevent indiscriminate and duplicate giving.
3. To protect the community against imposition.
4. To see that all deserving cases of destitution are properly relieved.
5. To make employment the basis of relief.
6. To elevate the home life, health and habits of the poor.

7. To prevent children from growing up as paupers.

The methods by which the foregoing objects are sought to be accomplished are:

1. By bringing about co-operation among all charitable agencies and persons.

2. By a system of registration, to prevent imposition.

3. By securing thorough investigation and the most suitable action in each and every case.

4. By obtaining from existing charities the precise help needed.

5. By giving temporary relief only in case of extreme emergency.

6. By a system of volunteer visiting, which shall substitute friendliness for alms and inspire to thrift, self-respect and better modes of life.

7. By careful study of the causes of pauperism and of the best method of dealing with destitution and degradation.

Prior to the meeting the city had been canvassed for funds to start and carry on the movement, and \$5,442.50 was reported pledged, to which \$230 was added at the meeting. To become a member a person promised at least five dollars a year to the organization. At the same meeting the following well-known citizens of Grand Rapids were appointed members of the first Council for the new organization:

L. D. Norris, J. W. Rosenthal, D. A. Blodgett, T. D. Gilbert, H. J. Hollister, Mrs. E. P. Fuller, Miss Frances E. Peirce, Maurice Shanahan, A. O. Crozier, Wm. M. Robinson, T. Stewart White, M. S. Crosby, Frances S. Hillyer, Mrs. M. R. Bissell, N. A. Fletcher, Abraham May, D. J. Doornink, J. G. Kalmbach, Frederick Loettgert, Mrs. T. W. Strahan, Mrs. L. S. Provin

On April 13, 1893, the Council met and organized by electing Hon Thomas D. Gilbert president and Miss Emma Field general secretary. Miss Field for several years had been a teacher in the public schools and was then principal of the Grandville Avenue School. She had done much work in charity and was thoroughly acquainted with the conditions of the city. As soon as she was appointed secretary, she was sent to Buffalo to learn methods where a similar organization was in full and successful operation. On her return Mr. Walter L. Casper, who had had experience in the office of the Cincinnati Asso-

ciated Charities, was appointed assistant secretary. The Charity Organization Society, on May 8, opened an office and for a time did business in the private office of the Grand Rapids Gas Company. On June 1 the office of the organization was moved to 139 North Division street, where it has since remained. Mr. Gilbert continued as president until his death, in November, 1894. In January following Harvey J. Hollister was elected president, and continued to hold the office until May, 1903, when he was succeeded by James R. Wylie, who was followed by Mark Norris. Miss Field has been general secretary of the society since its organization. For many years she had an assistant secretary, but for some time past has alone performed the duties of her office. The following were the first committees of the organization:

Executive Committee—J. W. Rosenthal, Mrs. M. R. Bissell, M. S. Crosby, T. Stewart White, Wm. M. Robinson.

Case Investigation—L. W. Wolcott, L. D. Norris, Mrs. E. P. Fuller.

Finance and Membership—J. W. Rosenthal, D. A. Blodgett, Henry Spring.

Friendly Visitors—Dr. Frances S. Hillyer, C. S. Udell, S. L. Withey.

Registration Bureau—Henry Idema, Joseph Houseman, N. L. Avery.

Co-operation and Conference—H. J. Hollister, M. Shanahan, D. J. Doornink.

Mendicancy—F. A. Maynard, Thaddeus Foot, E. G. Studley.

Legal Questions—Wm. Alden Smith, N. A. Fletcher, J. Edward Earle.

Literature—R. W. Butterfield, E. B. Fisher, Isaac P. Powell.

Provident Habits—John S. Lawrence, Wm. M. McBain, Frank E. Pulte.

Wood Yard—L. S. Provin, S. B. Jenks, J. K. Johnson.

Laundry—Mrs. T. W. Strahan, Mrs. N. W. Northrup, Mrs. H. C. Torrey.

Public and Private Health—Dr. Arthur Hazelwood, Dr. D. Emmett Welsh, Dr. R. H. Stevens.

The present officers of the organization are: Mark Norris, president; Mrs. T. D. Gilbert and James A. Hunt, vice-presidents, and Fred A. Twamley, treasurer. The General Council is

now composed as follows: Abraham May, Fred A. Twamley, Mark Norris, W. J. Stewart, Mrs. L. S. Provin, Dr. Frances Rutherford, M. H. Sorrick, J. R. Wylie, Mrs. T. D. Gilbert, Wm. M. Graham, C. L. Harvey, Mrs. M. R. Bissell, James A. Hunt, W. Millard Palmer, John W. Blodgett, H. J. Hollister, Cyrus E. Perkins, Henry Idema, C. S. Udell, Mrs. E. P. Fuller, Rev. J. A. Schmitt.

Soon after the society was organized the threatened financial crisis came to the city, and for many months suffering and want were alleviated by its efforts. A work-room was established at the office, 139 N. Division street, in which the needy could work and earn clothing and provisions. During the first year 2,024 days' work was there done and 3,577 dinners were served. The winter after its organization D. H. Waters gave to the society a supply of provisions and a stock of wood, amounting to more than \$4,000 in value. He gave the society the use of a store on Ottawa street, as a store-room for provisions, and the use of the vacant lot where the exhibition building now stands, at the corner of Ottawa and Lyon streets, for a wood-yard. He also donated a large tract of timber near the city, which was cut into logs, drawn to the woodyard and there cut into stovewood. The woodyard was a busy place for the first winter and a portion of the second winter after the society was organized. During the year 1893-94-95 many a good mechanic and thrifty workingman was glad to work under the direction of the society for the necessities of life, and take his pay in provisions and fuel. The business men of Grand Rapids placed at the absolute disposal of the society provisions and fuel, with only the condition that all persons relieved should first be investigated and their worthiness certified to by the society. The reduced numbers each year, for the dozen years since its organization, aided by the society, tell the story of the city's prosperity and the benefits of the society.

A few weeks after the society was organized there was such a demand for nurses to care for the needy sick that appeals were made to the hospitals for help and the services of graduate nurses secured. The society established a supply room, from which bedding, clothing and nourishing food are sent to the sick poor. The work in this department has ever since continued, and most of the time during the past ten years two

nurses or more have been employed. In 1890 Emerson McMillan gave \$1,000 to this department, of which \$600 was used to hire a nurse for a year and \$400 was unsed for emergency cases. The department is now conducted by the District Nurses' Association.

The society keepsp a complete record of its work. Since its organization the society has aided more than eight thousand cases, each of which is recorded. As a result the cost of maintaining the poor department of the city has largely decreased; benevolent associations and fraternal societies do not duplicate each other's work; fraud is detected; the public suffers little imposition from unworthy pepole; all worthy cases are investigated and aided; needy sick are assisted, and poverty is vanishing from Grand Rapids. All these benefits are received at a cost of less than twenty-five hundred dollars a year. Surely the good of the Charity Organization Society can hardly be overestimated.

In June, 1896, the National Conference of Charities held its twenty-third annual meeting at Grand Rapids. Two general sessions were held daily, and there were in addition about twenty section meetings held during the week. The president of the Conference that year was Abbot O. Wright, of Madison, Wisconsin. Among the papers read was one upon "The Friendly Visitor," by Mrs. L. P. Rowland, of Grand Rapids, and Rt. Rev. G. D. Gillespie, of Grand Rauids, was a member of the Executive Committee for the year. The following year Harvey J. Hollister also became a member of the Excutive Committee. It was a grand gathering of men and women devoted to noble puproses who did honor to the city. It was an event in local life, and a benefit to all benevolent institutions of the city. In 1897, at Toronto, Ontario, Mr. James R. Wylie gave an address before the National Conference upon the "Organization of City and County Public Charities" which attracted much attention and excited much favorable comment. use.

#### **The Y. M. C. A.**

The Young Men's Christian Association of Grand Rapids was organized on June 6, 1866, with the following officers: President, Moreau C. Crosby; vice-president, J. T. Miller; recording secretary, C. E. Hulbert; corresponding secretary, Rev. J Mor-

gan Smith; treasurer, H. W. Slocum. A reading room was opened, regular meetings were held, and a relief department organized for assisting the needy poor, which was afterwards turned over to the Union Benevolent Association. The next year rooms were occupied at 30 Canal street, a library started, and an employment bureau organized. The association also conducted large religious meetings in Luce's Hall. In 1870 the association was legally incorporated. In 1871 the headquarters were removed to Monroe street, opposite the Widdicomb building. In 1872 a general secretary, Mr. John Homer, was secured. The year 1874 saw the association adopting a new constitution, and the next year headquarters were removed to the Ledyard block. During Centennial year, 1876, there was an official report submitted to the association which showed that prior to that time more than \$20,000 had been expended in Grand Rapids by the local association since its organization, and that more than \$1,800 had been expended in relief work. That year the state convention of the Y. M. C. A. was entertained in Grand Rapids. In 1883 the association moved to the Godfrey block on Ionia street, one door south of Monroe street, where the headquarters remained until 1886, when they were removed to the northwest corner of Pearl and Ottawa streets, where Mr. Julius Berkey had erected a temporary building for the use of the association. The state convention was entertained by Grand Rapids in 1887. In 1888 the International Conference of Y. M. C. A. Secretaries was held in Grand Rapids, with nearly three hundred delegates attending from all parts of the United States and many foreign countries. The first site of the Y. M. C. A. building, at the corner of Ionia and Pearl streets, was purchased in September, 1888, and in October of the same year, the headquarters were again removed from the corner of Pearl and Ottawa to an old dwelling on the site purchased, and there the headquarters have since remained. In 1899 the international convention of Y. M. C. A. delegates was held in Grand Rapids. It was an event in the religious and municipal life of the city.

The Y. M. C. A. building is a monument of enterprise to the city. It cost \$100,000 with its equipments, and is an investment which pays good interest in the forces which work for righteousness in the city, its growth and development.

For more than thirty years the Y. M. C. A. of Grand Rapids

has had a general secretary who has given his entire time to the work, although there have been intervals when the position was not filled. The following will show the names of the general secretaries, their term of office, and the intervals of service: John Horner, 1872 to 1873; L. H. Pearce, 1874 to 1875; E. A. Spence, 1877; A. B. Carrier, 1877 to 1879; L. P. Rowland, 1880 to 1884; R. M. Beattie, 1885 to 1891; Charles S. Ward, 1891 to 1897; B. C. Cutler (acting secretary), 1897 to 1898; M. B. Van Vranken, 1897 to 1903; George B. Landis, 1903 to 1905; Frank H. West, 1905.

In 1890 Clay H. Hollister was elected president of the Y. M. C. A. of Grand Rapids, and continued as president until 1902, when, at his own request, he was relieved from his official duties, and Lee M. Hutchens was chosen president. He was followed in 1903 by A. T. Slaght.

Since 1890 the following have been directors and officers of the association: George N. Wagner, A. E. Yerex, Anton G. Hodenpyl, John B. Martin, Wm. C. Shepard, Henry Idema, J. B. Ware, S. H. Cobb, F. Emory Tuttle, M. S. Crosby, E. G. Studley, L. T. Wilmarth, J. H. Thomas, Wm. Judson, Frederick Macey., Wm. Logie, Stephen H. Ocker, Wm. N. Rowe, Franklin Barnhart, George W. Gay, J. L. McKee, M. H. Sorrick, James Grant, C. D. Harrington, E. A. Moreley, R. W. Butterfield, Amos Musselman, J. A. S. Verdier, L. C. Stow, Will H. Gay, Van A. Wallin, W. R. Fox, Wm. H. Haggerty, Charles M. Wilson, Wm. H. Gilbert, J. Harvey Innis, D. C. Steketee, L. L. Skillman, George E. Hardy, Harry C. Angell, J. D. M. Shirtz, G. H. Albers, F. C. Miller, Geo. E. Luther, W. C. Hopson, G. S. Booker, Benn M. Corwin, C. S. Burch, C. A. Felger, Howard Thornton, M. C. Sinclair, J. George Lehman, James Leenhouts, Claude Hamilton.

The following were the officers and directors for the year 1903-04: President, A. T. Slaght; first vice-president, W. H. Gay; second vice-president, C. M. Wilson; third vice-president, F. C. Miller; secretary, O. A. Felger; treasurer, Benn M. Corwin; Van A. Wallin, W. R. Fox, W. C. Hopson, H. A. Thornton, C. H. Hollister, J. George Lehman, M. C. Sinclair, M. D., Claude T. Hamilton, L. T. Wilmarth, J. L. McKee, W. H. Haggerty, James Leenhouts

Executive officers: General secretary, George B. Landis;

assistant secretary, A. C. Price; office secretary, Fred C. Coggeshall; membership secretary, H. M. Giddings; physical director, A. W. Brown; assistant physical director, E. O. Baker.

Officers and Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Association for 1905: President, W. H. Gay, Berkey & Gay; secretary, J. C. Knox, G. R. & I. R. R.; treasurer, James Leenhouts, Michigan Trust Co.; vice-president, Van A. Wallin, Leather Company; B. M. Corwin, Houseman building; W. D. Bishop, Bishop Furniture Co.; Walter Clark, Michigan Trust building; W. R. Fox, Fox Machine Co.; C. T. Hamilton, Michigan Trust Co.; W. C. Hopson, 25 Campau street; G. A. Krause, Hirth, Krause & Co.; J. L. McKee, Houseman building; John B. Martin, Monroe street; A. S. Musselman, Grocer Company; H. A. Thornton, Michigan Trust building; C. M. Wilson, Michigan Trust building; J. B. Ware, Citizens' Telephone Co.; L. T. Wilmarth, 155 Canal street.

Executive Committee: W. H. Gay, C. T. Hamilton, Walter Clark, J. A. Thornton, Jas. Leenhouts, Dr. B. H. Lee, Fred P. Geib, W. D. Bishop, J. W. A. Cairns.

The object for which the Y. M. C. A. was organized and the object for which it continues is to promote the welfare of the young men of Grand Rapids. "The privileges of its membership are for all who may wish to avail themselves of them, without restriction as to nationality, religious belief or occupation. Its door swings open easily to every young man who may desire to enter and within are found the right kind of companions and the means of spending the time pleasantly and profitably." There are innocent games for leisure hours whenever the building is open. There is a well-equipped gymnasium with swimming-pool, shower baths, tennis and athletic clubs for securing strength of body and good health. The gymnasium has about five hundred patrons annually. There are educational evening classes in penmanship, arithmetic, business correspondence, book-keeping, mechanical drawing, furniture drawing, electricity, English for foreign born, shorthand and typewriting, and public speaking, all of which are well patronized and appreciated. A reading room is open at all times and supplements the evening classes. Educational clubs are organized to pursue any subject in which several members are interested, and courses of practical talks are given. Members with musical abilities can culti-



vate their talents. There is a glee club and a mandolin club. The association holds meetings in the factories, and much good results on religious, social and educational lines. For many years the association has given annually an entertainment course, by which the people of Grand Rapids have heard first-class lecturers, musical companies, and singers of national and international reputation at low cost. During the year there are frequent free lectures and talks from people of the city, state and nation prominent in public, professional and educational life. No institution in the city works a wider field of usefulness.

#### **The Holland Union Benevolent Association.**

The Holland Union Benevolent Association Home is located at the corner of College avenue and East Bridge street. The association was incorporated in 1892, and soon after purchased from the Bernard estate the house and lot at 245 College avenue which now constitutes a portion of the site of the Home. After a time an adjoining house and lot was purchased and the capacity of the Home enlarged. The original purchases cost about \$7,000. About \$3,000 has been spent in repairs. The association owes \$4,000, and has a property worth about \$12,000, which is a remarkable showing considering that the association, since its organization, has constantly cared for beneficiaries of its bounty to the fullest capacity of the Home. The association had nothing for a start. It was organized to provide a home for aged indigent and infirm persons of general good conduct and character. It has about four hundred members, who pay annual dues of one dollar each. The Home is managed by twelve trustees, two-thirds of whom are males and one-third females, elected for a term of four years each. All religious exercises at the Home must conform to the tenets of the Holland Reform Churches. Religious exercises are held each week, but all inmates are free to attend such church exercises as they see fit.

It costs about \$5,000 a year to maintain the Home. Its income is derived from membership dues, church offerings, private donations, property of inmates and stipends from their relatives and friends. Church offerings are received from all Holland Reform churches in the United States. From October until May of each year the association employs a solicitor who gives his entire

time to accumulating funds for the Home. The Home has continuously from forty to fifty inmates, a large proportion of whom are Hollanders, but there is nothing in the laws of the association limiting the privilege of the Home to any blood, race, or religious belief. The inmates have been of various nationalities. At present the oldest inmate is ninety-five and the youngest sixty; a majority are over seventy-four years of age.

Since its opening the following have been superintendents of the Home: Mr. Vanderviere, Charles Tellinga, A. Haage and H. Zuilersma. Rev. Adrian Krukaard is now president of the association.

#### **The Children's Home.**

The Children's Home Society is doing an excellent and effective work in Grand Rapids. Its object is to ameliorate the condition of poor and homeless children, and to provide a home for those who are friendless or whose parents and guardians are unable to care for them. The society was organized June 23, 1892. The incorporators were Anna Horton, Ellen C. Moore, Emma Strahan, Cora H. Sweet, Clara S. Morley, Luna E. Colwell and Sara J. Davidson. Prior to its incorporation the society informally did some work along the lines indicated. It first met at the home of Mrs. Sweet, and conducted its work in soliciting clothing and other necessities and distributing where most needed. The society rented a house at 43 S. Lafayette street, where was established the first home. The society found plenty of work, and after incorporation rapidly increased in numbers and enlarged its field of usefulness. In August, 1892, through the generosity of D. A. Blodgett, the society purchased from his estate the residence of I. M. Clark, at 666 Cherry street, which now constitutes the Children's Home. The first officers of the society were: Mrs. H. N. Moore, president; Mrs. J. W. Rosenthal, vice-president; Mrs. Clara L. Morley, secretary; Mrs. Cora H. Sweet, treasurer; Mrs. T. W. Strahan, Mrs. J. C. Wenham, Mrs. Lena Colwell and Mrs. E. J. Horton, directors. When the transfer of the property was made by the estate to the society the heirs generously gave \$5,000 of the purchase price to the society for use in its work. The first year in its new home the society cared for 67 children, of whom 7 were adopted into good permanent homes

and two died. During the years 1895 and 1896 a fully equipped hospital was added to the institution. The Home has been fortunate in the health of its inmates. There have been deaths among the infants at the Home, but there has never been a death among the older children.

The management of the Home has always aimed to keep the idea of an institution in the background, and to have home life as far as possible in the front. The children live like one family. There is a dining room where all eat and are taught table manners. They all sleep in two large rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. Each child has a bed. There is a playroom which, of course, is in constant use. There is also a reading and study room. All children of school age attend the nearest public school in the grade to which each is eligible. All attend Sunday School regularly. The older girls are systematically taught sewing, knitting and mending. The boys are taught manual training. Special efforts are made to inculcate politeness and good works.

Permanent homes are found for all abandoned children as fast as possible. Many households have been made happy by taking a child from the Home into the family, and many a child has been made happy by finding foster parents through the efforts of the society.

Each year the Home cares for from forty to sixty children. Not all the inmates are abandoned and neglected children. Not infrequently a parent dies leaving one or more young children for whom the survivor can not keep up a household, and for such the Home is a place of refuge in time of need. The father leaves his child at the Home and gladly pays for its care; the mother, obliged to become a wage-earner, does the same. Sometimes the breadwinner of a family, by protracted illness or unusual misfortune, for a time is unable to provide for the little ones, and the Home takes the children until better times come to the broken family. The society has reunited many broken family ties and the gratitude of such households is unbounded. Often such households in prosperity have repaid with interest material aid received from the society in days of adversity.

It costs about \$4,000 a year for the maintenance of the Home. The sources of revenue are from such assistance as parents and guardians of children in the Home can give, dona-

tions from church societies, circles and classes, contributions from individuals, and other usual sources. The society, since its organization, has received two substantial legacies four thousand dollars from the estate of Miss Flora Stewart, and twenty-eight thousand dollars from the estate of Henry O. Schemerhorn. Only the income from the last legacy is available for the support of the Home; the principal can be used only for building a new home. In times of emergency the Home has never lacked friends.

The matrons of the Home have been Miss Anna Livingston, Miss Josephine Gidley and Miss Esther Robinson. The present officers of the Home are: Mrs. M. J. Clark, president; Mrs. John Hawkins, vice-president; Miss Abbie L. Weller, secretary, and A. H. Nichols, treasurer.

#### **St. John's Orphan Asylum.**

St. John's Orphan Asylum had its origin in the will of John Clancy, who bequeathed \$60,000 for the founding of such an institution. It was given to Bishop Richter in trust. In 1888 eight acres were purchased on East Leonard street, two and a half of which were sold to St. Alphonsus Church, one-half acre used for street purposes, and the remaining five acres constitute the grounds of the asylum. A portion of the present building, completed and furnished at a cost of \$27,000, was dedicated August 25, 1889. The asylum was opened with three inmates under the control of the order of St. Dominic, an American order having its origin in New York City. At first three Sisters were in charge, but as the needs of the institution increased the number of Sisters increased, until ten are now on duty in Grand Rapids. The first three inmates came from Saginaw, but Grand Rapids and vicinity soon furnished a growing school. Within a year there were nearly fifty inmates. There are now seventy-five boys and sixty girls receiving instruction and care at the institution, in charge of three teachers and ten Sisters. In 1896 the building was completed, at a cost of \$75,000. The institution occupies a commanding site, and is one of the first buildings to attract the eye of a stranger in the city.

By the rules and regulations of the asylum children are received between the ages of four and eleven, and are not received for a less period than one year. The asylum is pri-

marily for orphans and deserted children, although children and wards whose parents and guardians can aid in their support but have no homes for them are sometimes received and cared for, each case being governed and judged by its own peculiar circumstances.

Homes are often found for children without parents or friends, and friends and relatives are found for those deserted or left alone in the world. The institution is not limited in its charity, and good work to the children of any race, creed or color. Any child without home or friends, whose physical and mental condition is normal, is eligible to become an inmate of St. John's Orphan Asylum.

It is essentially, however, a Catholic institution, organized and governed by the church. Its revenues are largely derived from the church. An annual collection for its maintenance is taken in each church of the diocese. Each year there is held a supper or fair which has become a social event among all the Catholic churches of the city, and whose entire income goes for the support of the asylum. Like all institutions and societies under the control and direction of Bishop Richter, the asylum is out of debt. The beneficence of John Clancy and the careful, prudent management of the trust fund has given Grand Rapids an institution whose benefits can not be overestimated and whose blessings will increase as the years go by.

#### **Little Sisters of the Poor.**

Among the many charities of the city none do better and more effectual work than the Little Sisters of the Poor. It is a Catholic order, instituted in France more than sixty years ago. They form a congregation of nuns-hospitallers, converted by vow to the care of poor and infirm aged people. Since its organization the order has founded and built nearly three hundred homes for old people in different countries of the earth, which have sheltered nearly two hundred thousand inmates. There are two requirements for reception into their homes: old age and poverty. Old age begins at sixty; poverty is inability to obtain a livelihood and lack of means for support. Admission is not limited to any religion, sect, race or nationality. The Little Sisters give themselves up to the work of hospitality. They have no servants, no paid employes. They do

all the work of their homes, aided by the inmates who can do service. The houses are built and maintained entirely by alms solicited by the Sisters themselves. Anything which can be used directly or indirectly to support the inmates is thankfully received.

In 1868 the Little Sisters first came to the United States, since which time homes have been founded and built in nearly all the large cities of the country. May 1, 1884, five Sisters came to Grand Rapids to engage in this work. One was directly from France; the others were from various American cities. They began their duties with headquarters on West Bridge street, near St. James Church, where they remained for one year, and then, on May 1, 1885, moved to a stone house that stood on the present site of their fine building, at 158 South Lafayette street. In 1888 a substantial edifice was built and occupied on the feast of St. Anne. The Home then had sixty inmates, cared for by a Mother Superior and five Sisters. In 1898 an addition was built and the buildings and grounds assumed their present aspect and condition. The grounds are two hundred and fifty feet wide, extending from South Lafayette to South Prospect streets. The building is five stories high, built of brick, faces South Lafayette street with two hundred and sixty-one feet front, and is one hundred and fifty-six feet wide. It has a fine chapel sixty-two by twenty-eight feet, and contains dining rooms, dormitories, infirmaries, and all modern facilities for taking care of the sick and the infirm. The Home now has one hundred and forty inmates, with beds for one hundred and sixty, provided for by a Mother Superior and fourteen Sisters. The inmates are well cared for, with donations of provisions and fuel and about five thousand dollars per year in cash. The building of the Home, at a cost of about one hundred thousand dollars, and its support, has been entirely done with funds raised by the Sisters themselves in the diocese of western Michigan. The citizens of Grand Rapids can do no better charity than to assist the Little Sisters walking modestly about the city and asking alms for their old people.

#### **The House of the Good Shepherd.**

On January 18, 1904, two out-door Sisters of the Good Shepherd arrived in Grand Rapids to make preparations for

opening a home irrespective of creed or nationality for wayward girls and fallen women. They were guests of the Little Sisters of the Poor. The very same house, 363 Bridge street, in which the Home of the Aged was started in 1884, was rented for \$35 per month and dedicated to the grand work of reformation of fallen women on March 19, 1904, Mother Mary, of St. Laura, being the first Mother Superioress. In the fall of the same year, the old White place with ten acres of land was purchased for about \$8,000, and the little community moved into it October 3, 1904. A new brick three-story laundry building, costing about \$35,000, was commenced at once and was dedicated in March, 1905. The lower and part of the second floors are used for laundry purposes and the rest of the building for living rooms and dormitories. Although the building can accommodate one hundred and fifty persons, there are now, July, 1905, only sixteen girls and ten Sisters. The laundry, which forms the main support of the institution, is equipped with all modern machinery necessary for the work.

#### **Woman's Home and Hospital.**

In 1885 there was organized among the church women of Grand Rapids a society for "looking after the spiritual wants of the neglected classes," and Mrs. A. S. K. Burton was employed as city missionary. The officers were Mrs. J. Morgan Smith, president; Mrs. Henry Spring, secretary; Mrs. E. E. Judd, treasurer, and a vice-president from each church. There were so many cases of destitution and distress that the city missionary was compelled to devote most of her time and much of her salary to alleviating the suffering of homeless women. The society at first provided one room in the U. B. A. Home and raised funds to pay for the temporary care of such women as went there by the society's order. Soon a board of managers for the society was appointed, with Mrs. P. B. Whitfield as president, the other members consisting of Mrs. N. A. Stone, Mrs. C. D. Hodges, Miss Lillie McDonald, Mrs. Emma A. Wheeler and Mrs. A. S. K. Burton. An Advisory board of men, consisting of Mr. Wm. A. Berkey, Mr. D. A. Blodgett and Dr. G. T. Whitfield, was appointed. In March, 1886, an arrangement was made with Mrs. S. J. Douglass, of 440 North Ionia street, to give the society the temporary use of her resi-

dence as a home for the wards of the society. On May 6, following, the society rented a house at 51 South Ionia street and Mrs. Burton was appointed matron. In May the first annual meeting was held and the following officers chosen: President, Mrs. Dr. M. Veenboer; vice-presidents, Mrs. E. A. Wheeler and Mrs. P. B. Whitfield; recording secretary, Mrs. N. A. Stone; financial secretary, Mrs. Kerr B. Tupper; treasurer, Mrs. C. D. Hodges; advisory board, Reverends Kerr B. Tupper, H. P. Welton, P. Moerdyke, W. F. Richardson, J. Rice Taylor, A. R. Merriam and Wm. A. Berkey.

In September, 1886, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of the city took charge of the institution, and have ever since controlled its management and policy. It then took the name of the Woman's Home and Hospital, which it has since retained. Its original object was to provide a home for friendless, destitute women and girls, but its purposes have been enlarged to include women who are ill, or too feeble in health to support themselves, and whose means are too limited to admit of paying a high price for board, but who do not wish to be entirely dependent on charity and are willing and able to pay a small price for a good home with pleasant Christian surroundings and kind care and nursing when sick.

In 1886 the need of enlarged quarters became apparent, and a home containing fourteen rooms, at 250 East Fulton street, was rented at \$400 a year. Mrs. Wm. A. Berkey became responsible for the rent and carried the burden for several years. April 1, 1891, the society purchased the Granger property, at 69 Bostwick street, and moved into it April 6, and ever since it has been the Woman's Home and Hospital. It is one block from the post office. The lot is fifty-five feet front and one hundred and seventy-five feet deep, with a good barn on the rear. The house is brick. The price was six thousand dollars, all of which was paid within a few years. The Home is now free from debt and in an exceedingly prosperous condition, having more than a thousand dollars to its credit, and all running expenses paid. It is managed by the six local Woman's Christian Temperance Unions of the city, each Union having three directors on the Board of Managers. There are also three gentlemen on the board, composed at present of Mr. Myron H. Walker, Mr. C. S. Burch and Rev. R. H. Bradley. The presidents of the society since its organization have been



Mrs. Dr. M. Veenboer, Mrs. R. E. Watrous, Mrs. L. I. Mitchell, Mrs. Libbie Smith and Mrs. W. T. Johnson, who is now president. The secretaries have been Mrs. Marie Woodworth, Mrs. Libbie Smith and Mrs. Nettie Corser, who is now secretary. The treasurers have been Mrs. Emma K. G. Taylor, Mrs. M. V. Adams and Miss Hattie E. Perrin, who is now treasurer. The present vice-presidents are Mrs. H. C. Fairchild and Mrs. John Schoonfield. During the past year the Home disbursed almost five thousand dollars for running expenses, of which about twenty-six hundred dollars was cash donations, twelve hundred dollars from private parties and the balance from other sources. There were two hundred and ten inmates, sixteen births and eight deaths.

The matrons of the Home have been Mrs. A. S. K. Burton, Miss E. E. Hotch, Mrs. E. J. Hudson, Mrs. Hattie L. Tyler, Mrs. Frances A. Peck, Mrs. A. Amanda Hillis, Miss Jennie Patten, Mrs. T. A. Peck, Mrs. Adele Conklin, Mrs. Sarah Fuller, Mrs. Elmendorf, Mrs. Somers, Mrs. Ellen McNeil and Mrs. Louise I. Mitchell.

#### **The Masonic Home.**

On November 5, 1885, several well known citizens and Masons of Grand Rapids and vicinity formed articles of association for building a Michigan Masonic Home for aged or destitute Masons and for Masons' widows and orphans, and to provide for their moral, physical and intellectual culture. The following were the charter members: Jno. D. Jennings, Grand Rapids; Edward D. Benedict, Grand Rapids; Wm. Dunham, Grand Rapids; Jacob Barth, Grand Rapids; E. J. Horton, Grand Rapids; Samuel E. Watson, Grand Rapids; W. C. Denison, Grand Rapids; Geo. W. Thompson, Grand Rapids; Charles F. Cobb, Grand Rapids; J. L. Anderson, Grand Rapids; A. J. Elliott, Grand Rapids; Homer W. Nash, Grand Rapids; T. J. Lucas, Grand Rapids; R. D. Swartout, Grand Rapids; Fred K. Baker, Grand Rapids; John T. Holmes, Grand Rapids; U. S. Hayes, Grand Rapids; A. B. Kennan, Grand Rapids; A. H. Fowle, Grand Rapids; J. Goldsmith, Jr., Grand Rapids; R. F. Morse, Whitehall; V. V. Campbell, Grand Rapids; H. C. Taft, Grand Rapids; A. B. Botsford, Grand Rapids; Thos. D. Bradford, Grand Rapids; Geo. B. Catlin, Grand Rapids; Wm. P. Innes, Grand Rapids; Crawford Angell, Grand Rapids; C. D.

Stebbins, Sparta; Chas. S. Robinson, Grand Rapids; Andrew T. McReynolds, Grand Rapids; Victor H. Middleton, Grand Rapids.

The association accumulated funds and purchased a farm near Reed's Lake, which constitutes the present site of the Home. A portion of the farm was soon sold so advantageously that the grounds of the Home cost the association nothing. Plans for building were proposed and work commenced. On March 21, 1889, the corner stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies, at which time Grand Rapids saw the largest gathering of Masons and Masonic bodies ever seen in Michigan. Lodges and commanderies were present from all over western and southern Michigan, and leading Masons came from distant parts of Michigan and from other states. In the morning a parade of Masonic bodies took place, with H. T. Hastings as chief marshal. The line of march was from Bridge street, through Canal, Monroe, Division and Oakes streets, to the Union Depot, where four special trains were required to take members of the order to the lake. Hugh McCurdy, of Corunna, delivered the address. After the corner stone was placed contributions for the Home were called for, and amid much enthusiasm thousands of dollars were pledged by individuals and Masonic bodies in a short time.

The work of building rapidly progressed, and the next year a grand Masonic fair was held for the benefit of the Home, at which time more than \$20,000 in cash was realized and about \$5,000 worth of furniture for the Home was donated. Grand Rapids never saw a more successful fair for charitable purposes. The spirit of giving was in the air and seemed contagious. The formal opening was on Monday night, November 10, 1890, when Mayor Edwin F. Uhl delivered an address of welcome, to which response was made by John S. Cross, grand master of the Masons of Michigan. The fair was held in Hartman Hall, now the Auditorium. There were booths on every hand. The hall was adorned in the grandest style. Music, flowers and decorations abounded in wild profusion. It was made a grand society event, and visitors came in thousands from neighboring cities and towns. Afternoons and evenings the hall was thronged with crowds, gay and giving. Saturday night, at midnight, the Masonic fair came to an end. The officers of the fair were the following: Brother Heman N. Moore, director-general; Brother H. F. Hastings, first vice-

director-general; Brother Wm. Dunham, second vice-director-general; Brother Wm. P. Innes, secretary-general; Brother Jacob Barth, treasurer-general.

General Executive Committee (includes chairmen of all sub-committees): Brother Heman N. Moore, ex-officio chairman; Brother H. F. Hastings, chairman of Committee on Booths and Sales; Brother Wm. Dunham, second vice-director-general; Brother Wm. P. Innes, secretary-general; Brother Jacob Barth, treasurer-general; Brother George R. Perry, chairman of Committee on Subscriptions and Donations; Brother Dr. T. D. Bradfield, chairman of Committee on Halls and Decorations; Brother George E. Pantlind, chairman of Committee on Music and Entertainment; Brother Dr. S. R. Wooster, chairman of Committee on Refreshments; Brother Wm. A. Gavett, chairman of Committee on Transportation; Brother James N. Davis, chairman of Committee on Printing.

Honorary Committee: John S. Cross, grand master F. & A. M. of Michigan; Brothers Charles H. Axtell, Luman R. Atwater, John H. Armstrong, W. Irving Babcock, C. F. R. Belkows, Charles H. Brown, Edward D. Benedict, Charles P. Bigelow, John W. Champlin, Henry Chamberlain, Arthur M. Clark, A. B. Culworth, George W. Chandler, Wm. G. Doty, George H. Durand, Wm. Dunham, John W. Finch, James H. Farnum, John P. Fiske, Thomas Greene, Geo. H. Greene, Theron F. Giddings, John Gilbert, John A. Gerow, Wm. G. Hudson, Rufus C. Hathaway, Frank Henderson, R. Allen Hall, Charles T. Hills, Charles J. Kruger, Hollis F. Knapp, Wm. F. King, W. Irving Lattimer, Wm. S. Lawrence, Wm. T. Mitchell, Abram T. Metcalf, Hugh McCurdy, John W. McGrath, M. H. Maynard, John L. Mitchell, Salmon S. Matthews, Garra B. Noble, Alanson Partridge, Benjamin Porter, Eugene P. Robertson, Leonard H. Randall, Daniel Striker, Oliver L. Spaulding, Michael Shoemaker, Ebenezer Sprague, Alfred I. Sawyer, David C. Spaulding, Wm. S. Turck, Wm. B. Wilson, Wm. L. Webber, Benjamin F. Watts, Wm. Wente, Thomas H. Williams, and all past commanders-in-chief of consistories, A. & A. S. R., in Michigan.

The Home was dedicated on January 27, 1891, with appropriate exercises by the Grand Lodge of the State of Michigan, and immediately was opened for its beneficence.

**Foundation**—The foundation is of a dark stone, from the Holland quarries, in rock face.

The walls are of white brick, upon a heavy gray stone water table, the wood work painted terra cotta colors, giving a pleasing contrast.

**Basement**—The basement has a hall one hundred and twenty feet long and ten feet wide, and contains a kitchen, pantry, bakery, laundry, dry room, ironing room, a large play or school room, water closet containing three bath tubs, one room for gas machine, and water tank for elevator, and four rooms to use as store rooms for kitchen and bakery. Two flights of stairs leading to first floor.

**First Floor**—First floor has a hall running north and south the length of the building, ten feet wide, and two side halls to the west, the main one being eleven feet wide, leading to the west main entrance of building. Each end of these halls have vestibules with tile floors and iron steps and risers, their ceilings finished in panel work of native oak. It also contains one closed vestibule, a reception room, parlor, dining room, a suite of three rooms for use of matron, with good clothes closets, also seven bed rooms, four of them have fire-places, and all have clothes closets; a water closet. There is a grand staircase fronting west entrance, also a stairway at rear entrance of main hall.

**Second Floor**—The second floor contains hall, day room, a large sitting room looking out over the lake, a store room for bedding, water closet with bath tub, a room for library, and twenty bed rooms, each one having a good clothes closet. This floor has eight fire-places.

**Third Floor**—Third floor contains halls, hospital, with two water closets and bath rooms, a large sitting room looking out upon the lake, a store room for bedding, a water closet for north end of hall, and eighteen bed rooms, each having a large clothes closet. Eight fire-places are on this floor.

There is a dumb waiter from kitchen to dining room. A hand elevator from cellar to attic to accommodate each floor, besides a passenger elevator from basement to attic, and a dust chute from third floor to basement.

Every sleeping room is provided with proper ventilation, each receiving a current of fresh warmed air through transom over

doors, passing out at base of rooms through tin tubes located in partitions leading to attic, and out of roof.

Hospital and sick rooms connected therewith have hard wood floors; the dining room, kitchen, bakery and all halls in building above basement have white maple floors, finished in oil.

The roof is covered with dark slate, and the building is entered from the east, west, north and south by stone buttress steps, and having on east and west sides deep, commodious verandas.

The building is heated by steam from boiler house located ninety feet distant, conducted through pipes under ground.

It is furnished with soft water from a three hundred and fifty barrel cistern. For culinary purposes, from a well four hundred feet deep.

The Home accommodates on an average about sixty beneficiaries a year. The cost of maintenance is about nine thousand dollars per annum, derived from a per capita tax upon the Masons of Michigan, from various Masonic bodies, and from individual contributions. There is also a small revenue from the farm. The Home is for Masons, their wives, widows and orphans, and is a perpetual monument to the spirit of Masonry. It is an institution in which every Grand Rapids citizen can have honest pride.

The management of the Home is under the control of the grand Masonic bodies of the state of Michigan. The present officers and Board of Control are as follows: President, Maro M. Read, Ypsilanti; treasurer, Wm. Wentz, Manistee; secretary, Rial V. McArthur, Grand Rapids.

Board of Control—Grand Lodge: William Wentz, John W. McGrath and Wilson R. Andress. Grand Chapter: Maro M. Read, Judson E. Ries and E. C. Clark. Grand Council: Charles L. Fitch, Eli C. Phillips and A. L. Bates. Grand Commandery: Charles H. Pomeroy, John Rowson and William C. Grobhisser. Eastern Star: Anna A. Mattison, Helen E. C. Balmer and Margaret G. Moore.

#### **The Rescue Mission.**

This mission was organized in February, 1900, by Melvin E. Trotter. It was first opened at No. 95 Canal street in a small room not more than 20x70 feet in size. Although its quarters

were poorly ventilated and illy adapted for its purposes, success attended it from its inception.

But the old room was speedily found inadequate to accommodate the throngs that nightly demanded admission. So a new building was erected at Nos. 70 and 72 Market street, with a seating capacity of eight hundred and fifty. Into this the mission was moved in 1901. Scarcely more than two years elapsed and the superintendent and officers found themselves again confronted with the problem—how to find room for the crowds that nightly attended. Especially was this difficulty experienced at the Sunday night meetings when, after seats and even standing room were all filled and occupied, many were turned away, unable to gain admission.

The Rescue Mission is open practically all the time. For three hundred and sixty-five evenings in each twelve months the rooms are open for worship, for testimonials from those who have been saved from sin, efforts to rescue the fallen and unfortunate ones of earth.

But the work of the mission is by no means confined to religious teaching and efforts to regenerate the criminal, the vicious and the unfortunate classes. Where material help is needed it is freely offered. Advice and sympathy are never withheld.

But the extent of the charitable assistance thus rendered to the worthy poor cannot be appreciated by those not familiar with the details. Not a day and hardly an hour passes that does not bring applicants for aid. Especially is this true during the winter months. Last year, 1904, the mission practically supported and clothed sixty-four destitute families. Every Wednesday afternoon there is held a mothers' meeting, when from thirty to forty earnest women workers gather to sew and make garments for the needy and destitute. Some of these are made from new material, but most are from remodeled donations. Each year a large meeting is held, at which the citizens of Grand Rapids contribute for the support of the mission.

#### **Kent County Bible Society.**

In the years that have gone the Kent County Bible Society did a grand work in supplying the people with Bibles. Its early rec-

ords are lost but on July 28th, 1842, it was recognized as an auxiliary of the American Bible Society of New York. Its object was to furnish Bibles to everyone at the lowest possible prices, and to give a Bible to anyone who had no Bible and did not feel able to buy one. The funds were raised by contributions of individuals and churches and from the sales of books. February 28, 1843, the first work undertaken was to supply neighboring towns whose wants were ascertained by a voluntary canvass. The Revs. James Ballard, H. E. Waring and T. Z. R. Jones each held himself responsible for an equal share of the work. W. G. Henry was the treasurer of the Society, and the depository of its books and the headquarters of the Society were at his store. July 20, 1846, the following officers were elected: President, Rev. James Ballard; vice-president, L. R. Atwater; secretary, Rev. A. B. Taylor; treasurer, G. Luther; executive committee, E. N. Faxton, G. S. Deane, W. G. Henry, Henry Stone, Wm. Haldane.

In October, 1849, the village was divided into six districts for exploration. One district (north of Bridge street and east of the river) was reported as having four persons destitute and unable to purchase a Bible. They were supplied by the Society.

In the winter of 1853-54 the county was canvassed by the Rev. E. Prince of Cascade who received \$30 for his work. On the 20th of April, 1865, twelve ladies were appointed Bible distributors in the five wards of the city. In May of that year Rev. John A. Pindres was appointed county missionary and he made report in 1867. In 1880 another canvass of the city and county was made by the Rev. William J. Johnson which took two years for its completion. W. G. Henry kept the depository until May 12, 1865, when he was succeeded by Henry M. Hinsdell, who had charge until 1871 when he was succeeded by Charles W. Eaton who had charge until 1882 when L. E. Patten was elected. He was followed by Frank M. Hulswit who for many years kept a stock of Bibles at 157 Monroe street. In 1899 he moved to 91 South Division, where the Bibles and books of the Society are now kept. L. B. Stuart was president from 1870 until his death. The present officers are Nicholas Silvins, president; M. E. Tomlinson, secretary; Frank M. Hulswit, treasurer and custodian.

In these later days when books are cheap and Bibles can be bought for a few cents the work of the Society has largely

ceased, but years ago when books were expensive and Bibles were costly the Society did a grand work in supplying the city of Grand Rapids and the county of Kent with the best and most valuable of all books.

### **The Bissell House.**

Bissell House had its origin in the efforts of an order known as "The King's Daughters," which was organized on June 11, 1888, at the Woman's Club House, on Sheldon street. It was divided into circles of "ten" and one of the tens became interested in establishing a kindergarten and creche for the benefit of children in need of help. It held its first meeting at the home of Mrs. H. M. Joy, who was its first president, on July 9th, and in October, 1888, a school was opened at 397 Ottawa street with eleven children in the kindergarten and a young babe in the creche. Miss Emma Chamberlain at first had charge of the work. She was a thorough kindergartner and for the first year donated her services. Mrs. Mary A. Williams of Flint, Michigan, was engaged as matron of the creche, and assistant to Miss Chamberlain in the kindergarten. A mission Sunday School was also established. At the end of the first year Miss Chamberlain retired and Mrs. Williams was engaged as teacher and matron. In 1890 a sewing school was organized. A library was started. In September, 1890, the Circle was obliged to move to larger quarters at 442 Ottawa street. Mrs. Williams was much aided by volunteers' assistance, but the work so increased that a larger house was occupied, and quarters were kept open evenings. The evening work resulted in an organized club. In the spring of 1897 more room was required and Mrs. M. R. Bissell, who had become interested in the Circle, decided to build a permanent home for the work. The result was the fine brick building known as the Bissell House at 425 Ottawa street, situate in one of the most congested districts of the city. The home is three stories high. In the basement are the gymnasium, furnace, and bathrooms. On the south side of the hall on the ground floor is the kindergarten room; on the north side are the reception room, library, club room and kitchen. On the second floor are the apartments of the resident helpers and the creche. Bissell House was opened October 10th, 1897. On



July 5th, 1904, The Bissell House Association was incorporated and now has charge of the work.

### **Report of Bissell House Since 1898.**

#### **A Social Settlement.**

Bissell House began its work as a social settlement October 10, 1897. Since that time it has grown and made its influence felt in other parts of the city as well as in its immediate neighborhood. Many clubs—social, literary and industrial—have been organized and successfully maintained. Educational and industrial classes have been formed and re-formed during the past six years. Clubs and classes help to give a more perfect outlook upon life, a clearer appreciation of its responsibilities, an opportunity for manual training and an education of the moral and intellectual nature—help in all these and other ways, but most of all they prove the “brotherhood of man,” which alone can solve the great social problems.

#### **Entertainments and Social Gatherings.**

It has been the desire of the house to give an entertainment once every month. Many musical and literary programs, athletic and stereopticon entertainments have been arranged for the people of the neighborhood, friends from all parts of the city generously responding when called upon. Some very successful entertainments have been presented by young people connected with the house through clubs or classes for the purpose of raising money for repairs or other necessities.

#### **Pleasant Hour.**

For two years a gathering, which was called the “Pleasant Hour,” was arranged for every Sunday afternoon at 4 o’clock. It consisted of musical numbers by the best talent in the city; also talks by prominent men. Last year these same meetings were held in the evenings on Sunday, from 7 to 8 o’clock. The general character remained the same.

#### **New Year’s Day.**

For the past six years it has been the custom to keep “open

house'' on New Year's Day, i. e., have music and serve coffee and doughnuts all day and during the evening.

#### **Christmas.**

During the holidays every club and class has its individual Christmas party.

#### **Loan Fund.**

The settlement always responds to a call of need, and one of its most practical ways was by using a "Loan Fund." Its object was to help bridge over some financial difficulty by loaning a small amount for a short time.

#### **Flower Mission.**

A flower mission was started in connection with the sewing school. The children and teachers brought flowers, which were afterwards distributed by the children to the sick in the neighborhood.

#### **Ice Water Barrel.**

For the past three summers the ice water barrel in front of the Bissell House has been in constant use and has been a real blessing. The ice and water companies fill it each morning during the summer months.

#### **Picture Loan.**

A picture loan was started in order that there might be good pictures upon the walls of the Bissell House. These were loaned by interested people for a month at a time. This year a very successful art exhibit was held, the proceeds to be devoted to the purchase of good pictures. This was the first attempt of this kind, and it has been deemed advisable to make it an annual event hereafter.

#### **Library.**

The circulating library has 1,200 volumes on its shelves. From time to time the old books are discarded and replaced by new ones. There is a small fine if books are kept over two weeks. During the past summer Mrs. Field recatalogued all the books. She acts as librarian Wednesday afternoons and Mrs. Cornelius Saturday afternoons.

**Reading Room.**

The reading room, which has the daily papers and many magazines, is open to the public every afternoon and evening except Sunday.

**Music.**

During the past six years classes in music for children and adults have been carried on. Among these have been chorus classes, classes in voice culture, a mandolin and guitar club, and work on the piano in both class and private lessons.

**New Piano.**

A piano was purchased for the Bissell House through the efforts of the young people, the first payment on it being made by the Dramatic Club of 1902, when they cleared \$40 on presenting "Mr. Bob." Other entertainments followed until the debt has finally been paid.

**Kindergarten.**

Before the kindergartens were established in the public schools, on either side of Bissell House, ours was very large. Now the average daily attendance for the past few years has been forty-five. Of this number all the children have been from three to five years of age. All the material is purchased with the pennies which the children bring, no stated charge being made. We consider this department the nucleus of our work. Many of our strongest and most reliable helpers among the young people were in our kindergarten at one time. For the children who graduate from this department we have various industrial and social clubs or classes, which they may enter, to meet their needs and ages. In this way we keep in touch with them from babyhood to manhood.

We have always had assistants from the Grand Rapids Kindergarten Training School, and their services have been invaluable.

**Sewing School.**

This department of our work consists of two divisions—a Wednesday afternoon class, composed mostly of Jewish children, under the direction of Mrs. Morris Friedman, and a Sat-

urday morning class, in charge of Mrs. Mary Williams, assisted by Miss Ellen McConnell and Miss Elvira Boltwood. During Mrs. Williams' long illness and year's vacation Miss McConnell took entire charge. In these Wednesday and Saturday afternoon sewing schools there is an average weekly attendance of thirty-five and one hundred and fifty-five girls, respectively. Being entirely dependent upon the good will of the public for teachers, the number of pupils admitted is necessarily governed by the number of ladies who are willing to give their services.

The "Murray Educational System" has been the foundation of the work, and those years when we had sufficient help the girls were able to draft all their patterns and do their own cutting. The children are all eager to learn, but they come to us in such crowds that we are obliged each year to turn many away, even though the fathers and mothers beg of us to admit their children.

Many of the girls who have completed the course have gone out into dressmaking establishments. If it were not for the hearty co-operation of the public in this giving of their time to help in this work it could not be as successful as it is.

#### **Sunday School.**

Every year a Sunday School has been carried on Sunday afternoons for the children of the neighborhood. The Congregational and Baptist Young People's Societies have taken charge in turn. The attendance has usually been very large.

#### **Industrial and Educational Classes.**

Besides those already spoken of there have been classes in:  
Cooking for boys, girls and mothers.  
Drawing, including life, perspective and mechanical.  
Raffia work and basket making.  
Millinery and shirt-waist making.  
Literature, history and German.  
Penmanship, business methods and telegraphy.  
Parliamentary law and elocution.  
Kitchen-garden and knife work.  
Clay modeling, pyrography and embroidery.

Hair-dressing and nursing.  
Gymnasium work for young men and boys.  
Physical culture for young ladies and girls.  
Deportment and dancing.

#### **Young Ladies' Club.**

The "Three H's," a club of self-supporting girls who have been loyal to Bissell House for a number of years, deserve special mention. We have grown to depend upon them in almost every phase of the work, for they are always willing to help in entertainments, socials, children's clubs, the Sunday School and in our neighborhood work. They have placed their ideal high and try to live toward it every day, for they mean that the world shall be a little brighter for their having lived in it. Miss Mary L. Luther was leader of this club for five years.

#### **Baths.**

There are two shower-bath rooms, one for the use of women and girls and the other for men and boys. After work in the gymnasium the classes always have access to these bath rooms. That the neighborhood appreciates this department of our work is shown by the fact that the baths are in constant use during the hours when they are open, while men are kept waiting for their turn. More bath-rooms are really necessary if we are to accomplish the good which we might.

The charges are five cents a bath with towel and soap furnished, or three cents when they bring their own.

#### **Gymnasium.**

Classes for young men and boys of all ages are carried on in the gymnasium. Paid instructors from the Y. M. C. A. and volunteer workers from among our own club members have led these classes. On account of the low ceiling most of the work has to be "floor work," so called. Indoor baseball is one of the favorite games. However, many good times have been enjoyed and many difficult feats attempted and successfully carried out.

Not long ago a young man said, "If it hadn't been for the training I received here I should not be alive today. In the fac-

tory where I work a large piece of machinery was being hauled to an upper floor when it began to slide and only by a back handspring could I get out from under it. And that handspring I learned in Bissell House gymnasium."

Physical exercise appeals to all boys and young men, and we are confident that when we can have a large, well equipped gymnasium to offer them, some of the problems that now confront us will be readily solved.

### **Play Ground.**

In June, 1902, a play ground was opened in the rear of Bissell House. Three gentlemen of this city gave the use of their lots until sold, for this purpose. The city prepared and equipped the place and then young men from the Y. M. C. A. and young ladies from the kindergarten training school directed the play on the grounds. Although we had no fence, the work was carried on very successfully for two summers. Basket ball was the game most often played, the place being too small for baseball or football. The younger children enjoyed the sand pile, swings and see-saws, while the older ones used the other apparatus.

We can see great possibilities ahead if only a large feed barn that is the north boundary of our play ground could be bought or leased for a term of years. A fine gymnasium could be made of this structure and that is what Bissell House needs more than anything else if it is to meet the needs of the young men and boys of this neighborhood.

### **Repairs.**

This fall the house has been thoroughly renovated throughout. It had been in need of these repairs for some time and now all is in order for the coming year's work.

The yard has been much improved also. Last fall it was re-sodded and this spring shrubs were set out all around the lot. A wire fence was put up to protect these shrubs until they were well grown.

### **Outings.**

Every summer camping parties are formed, remaining away from town from three to fifteen days. Then numerous picnics

are participated in by the kindergarten, clubs, classes and young people in general.

#### **Friendly Visiting.**

An important feature of our work is the calling at the homes. In this way we become acquainted with the parents. Each year an average of 550 visits have been made. It is understood that Bissell House residents stand ready to help at any time in case of sickness or any other need.

#### **In Residence at Bissell House.**

##### **Residents.**

Mrs. Mary Williams, head worker, Grand Rapids, from Oct., 1897, to 1902, from 1903 to present time.

Mr. J. D. Williams, Grand Rapids, from Oct., 1897, to 1902, from 1903 to present time.

Miss Grace Williams, Grand Rapids, from Oct., 1897, to 1902, from 1903 to Sept., 1904.

Mr. Royal Williams, Grand Rapids, from Oct., 1897, to 1902.

Miss Elizabeth Williams, Grand Rapids, from Oct., 1897, to 1902, from Sept., 1904, to present time.

Davis Williams, Grand Rapids, from Oct., 1897, to 1902, from Sept., 1903, to present time.

Miss Mary L. Luther, Luther, from Oct., 1897, to 1902, from Sept., 1904, to present time.

Miss Ina Sterling, Ishpeming, from Sept., 1902, to June, 1903.

Miss Helen Waggoner, Chicago, from Sept., 1903, to June, 1904.

Miss Harriet Wood, Grand Rapids, from July, 1904, to Nov., 1904.

Miss Julia Billings, Traverse City, from Nov., 1902, to July, 1903.

Miss Clara Schweizer, La Crosse, Wis., from Nov., 1902, to July, 1903.

#### **Calendar of Clubs and Classes.**

Sunday.

Kindergarten open at 9:00 a. m. daily from Monday to Friday.

Reading room open each evening except Sunday from 7:00 to 10:00 p. m.

Sunday school at 3:00 p. m. Pleasant Hour, 4:00 p. m. Last year at 7:00 p. m.

Monday.

3:30 p. m., piano lessons, Miss Helena Stone. 7:00 p. m., girls' club, Miss Mary Luther. 7:00 p. m., class in knife work, ~~Miss~~ Elizabeth Williams. 7:30 p. m., indoor baseball practice. (~~Bis-~~sell, Ind.). 7:45 p. m., cooking class for mothers and young women, Miss Gertrude Smith. 8:00 p. m., orchestra practice, Mr. Berney Hills, director.

Tuesday.

4:00 p. m., physical culture for girls, Miss Luther. 7:00 p. m., girls' club, Mrs. Shields. 7:30 p. m., boys' club, Mrs. Van Vaulkenberg and Mr. Cornelius Sliver. 8:00 p. m., dramatic club, Miss Clare Dudley Buck.

Wednesday.

3:00 to 5:00 p. m., circulating library open, Mrs. Field, librarian. 3:30 p. m., sewing school for Jewish girls, Mrs. M. Friedman. 7:30 p. m., boys' club, Miss Amy Conger.

Thursday.

7:00 p. m., boys' club in gymnasium. 8:00 p. m., Bissell House Glee Club, Mr. A. W. Bell, leader.

Friday.

2:00 to 6:00 p. m., bath rooms open for women and girls. 6:30 to 10:00 p. m., bath rooms open to the public. 7:00 p. m., boys' club in gymnasium, Mr. Cornelius Sliver. 8:00 p. m., the Three H's Club of Young Ladies.

Saturday.

9:30 a. m., sewing school, Mrs. Mary Williams, assisted by Miss Elvira Boltwood. 1:00 p. m., piano lessons, Miss Fallas. 7:00 to 8:30 p. m., private lessons in voice culture, Miss Eva



Belle Johnson. Bath rooms open to the public all day and evening. 2:00 to 5:00 p. m., circulating library open, Mrs. C. S. Cornelius.

#### **Report of Bissell House for October, 1904.**

The reorganizing of clubs and classes did not begin in general until after the Art Exhibit, which was held Oct. 12 to Oct. 17, inclusive. All the rooms were needed for this exhibit.

Oct. 4. The Circulating Library was opened to the public for the first time this fall, Mrs. Field in charge. During the summer months she had recatalogued all the books, numbering about 1,200 volumes. She is in charge every Wednesday afternoon from 3:00 to 5:00 o'clock. Later in the month in answer to a plea in the Press for a librarian, Saturday afternoons, Mrs. C. S. Cornelius offered her services from 2:00 to 5:00 p. m.

Oct. 8. The Saturday morning class in sewing was reorganized; 115 girls present. They did not meet again for two weeks on account of the Art Exhibit. When they came together again there were 150, and we now have a regular attendance of 162. All of the rooms on the first floor are used by the various divisions of this class, and we have turned away a large number, owing to lack of material and teachers. One father came with his girls to ask if they might be admitted; said they feared if he did not come we would not take them. It is hard to say no when they are so eager and anxious to learn, and when the teachers plead to be allowed to inconvenience and overburden themselves, that all may come. Right here let us express our appreciation of the kindly interest and earnest work of the eighteen ladies who give us their Saturday mornings.

#### **Music.**

Saturday afternoons and evenings Miss Eva Belle Johnson gives private lessons in voice culture. Five of our young people are taking advantage of this opportunity, which is an unusually fine one. We consider ourselves very fortunate in securing one so well qualified to take up this line of work.

On Oct. 22 a class for the piano was organized by Miss Fallas, who so kindly gives us her time every Saturday afternoon. Seven little girls compose the class.

On Mondays from 3:50 to 5:30 Miss Helene Stone has a class of six little girls. This class has been organized for some time and the girls are doing good work. All have the use of the piano for practice and come each day at their appointed hour.

On Nov. 3 a Glee Club, directed by A. W. Bell, was organized. We have long felt the need of a Bissell House chorus and are hoping much from this new feature of the work.

### **Clubs and Classes.**

At 1:30 p. m., Oct. 22, eight little boys, average age 11 years, came to organize a club. As there was no one to lead them they played games for a time, then went into the gymnasium for a half hour's exercise. They carry papers, so can come only at this time in the afternoon. Miss Fox, a student of the Kindergarten Training School, has consented to act as their leader.

Monday evening, Oct. 24, a club of girls, that for the past two years Miss Nella Van Rossum has directed, met and reorganized under the leadership of Miss Mary L. Luther, resident helper.

On this same evening a class of twenty-seven boys began knife work with Miss Elizabeth Williams, a graduate of the Chicago School of Sloyd. Miss Williams thought best to divide the class, part of them to meet Monday evenings at 7 o'clock and the rest Thursdays, after school.

The boys were asked to buy their own knives, and seemed very willing to do so in so far as they could; but as a number have been unable to buy them it was decided to set aside a portion of the dues for that purpose. The dues—two cents per week—have supplied them with drawing paper and rulers, and Mr. John Widdicomb has responded most generously to a call for boards, so that the one thing most needed now is an oil-stone for sharpening knives.

Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 25, at 4 o'clock, a class of girls from ten to fourteen years of age began work in physical culture under the direction of Miss Luther. Even at this early date the class gives promise of accomplishing much, as each member is an honest, earnest little worker.

Tuesday evening a club of little girls, who were led by Miss Loraine Lockwood last year, met and reorganized all by themselves, as we had been unable to secure a leader for them. They

are nearly all Jewish girls and such trustworthy little helpers that we know all will go well whether we are in the room or not.

On this evening, too, a club of boys, average age fifteen years, was organized for gymnasium work under the leadership of Mr. Cornelius Sliver. They have been granted another night in the week for parliamentary drill, current events and a social time. On this evening Mrs. Van Vaulkenberg meets with them. Just now they are planning to give a social at Thanksgiving time.

Thursday evening, Oct. 20, a number of boys, about thirteen years of age, came to see about organizing a club. They also want gymnasium work, indoor baseball in particular. They have been given Thursday evening, though, as yet, no leader has been found for them.

The evening of Oct. 27th "The Three H's" our one club of young ladies, met for the first time this year. They have not, as yet, fully decided what their plan of work will be.

Saturday, Oct. 29, a number of small boys came, asking for Saturday evening or some night after school. These boys are about eleven years of age, and the very ones we want to help; in fact, we can not bear to turn any away. Isn't there someone who can and will act as their leader?

Tonight, Nov. 1, the Dramatic Club began work on their new play, which they expect to give after the holidays. Miss Clare Dudley Buck is directing them again this year.

A class in cooking will organize tomorrow night under the direction of Miss Gertrude Smith. The class is intended for working girls and mothers.

The baseball teams begin indoor practice this week. Bissell House needs a new gymnasium. The present one, originally intended for a drill room only, was pressed into service the first year we entered the new building, but for the past five years has fallen far short of meeting the needs of our young people.

### **Baths.**

There have been one hundred baths taken during the month. On Friday and Saturday evenings both rooms are in constant use. One man, who came recently for the first time, said: "I

didn't know you had this place here; I will tell my friends what a fine place it is."

This month's report closes with the Hallowe'en party given by the young people to their friends. All voted it a "complete success."

The following are the present trustees of the Association: Mrs. Mary E. Campau, Mrs. Lillian Munson, Mrs. Anna Bissell, Miss Mary Butterfield, Miss Angie Buchanan, Wm. J. Landman, Mrs. Julia Fletcher, Mrs. Laura Berkey, Mrs. Adeline Powell, Mrs. Caroline P. Campbell, Mrs. Jennie E. Davidson, Charles S. Burch, Walter W. Drew, Corwin S. Udell, Anson J. Daniels.

The Association is doing an excellent work, and its patrons have just cause of pride in its success.

The people of Grand Rapids have reason to be proud of their benevolent and philanthropic institutions. They are all on a sound financial basis, and are conducted on business principles. Every institution gives good value for the money donated. Each one gives the best possible service along the lines for which it is established. In recent years the administration of charity and philanthropy has greatly improved. Watchful care stops waste; careful investigation prevents imposition. The most charitable people of a community are not always those who give the most money, but those who give time and effort. More than money many an institution needs care and work from people who know how to aid and assist without demoralizing. A man of means can give money and do nothing, but such giving may do harm unless the donor follows it up and sees that his charity is as well administered as are his own business affairs. The hospitals and homes and asylums of a community are business investments, and to be effectual should be conducted intelligently and economically, so that the beneficiaries will be aided and not demoralized; will be assisted to become independent and not encouraged to become dependent. The wealthy people of Grand Rapids are never lacking in generosity. In hard times the unfortunate have always been well cared for. The charities of the city are well conducted because the people who have been successful in business have contributed not only their wealth to the city's benevolent institutions but have given to the institutions the time and experience and abilities which brought them success and gave them their wealth. The success of true be-

nevolence is giving to the weak not only the comforts of the strong, but inciting them to acquire those comforts for themselves. Developing latent abilities is better than giving money. Teaching thrift is better than giving gifts. Philanthropy and charity are not prerogatives of wealth alone. People can give time, effort and attention to benevolence which often bring better results than money giving. Successful business men who give their time and attention to proper administration of benevolence, often give what is better than their money.



**Hot Blast Feather Co.**

The Hot Blast Feather Co. commenced business in 1880 as a partnership with about \$15,000 invested. It was managed by W. J. Kennedy and A. T. Driggs, and was located at 107 S. Front St. At first it employed only four or five men but it now employs about forty. In 1903 it was incorporated with \$30,000 capital. Its present officers are L. D. Field, President; Bert Henderson, Vice-President, and Wm. J. Kennedy, Secretary and Treasurer. It manufactures mattresses, pillows, beds and springs, and its output is about \$70,000 a year. Its products are sold chiefly in Michigan.

It is now located at the corner of South Front and Shawmut, but during the year 1906 will move to the corner of Third and Seward streets, where it is constructing a building 60x100 feet and four stories high.

**Edward H. Stein**, for many years Secretary of the Board of Education, was born in Germany, Feb. 24, 1847. His father was a school teacher. When two years of age his parents migrated to America and settled in Indiana. He was educated in the Ft. Wayne public schools and in parochial schools taught by his father. When a young man he was apprenticed to a blacksmith and served four years with the exception of nine months when he was in the army and saw active service in the Nashville campaign of 1864-5. After the war was over, he spent six years in Germany; returned to America and followed his trade of blacksmithing for seventeen years, working for the G. R. & I. Railroad Co. at Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids. In 1885 he was elected a member of the Board of Education. In 1888 he was elected Secretary of the Board, which office he has since held. In 1887 he was elected member of the Common Council and was an Alderman for twelve years.





